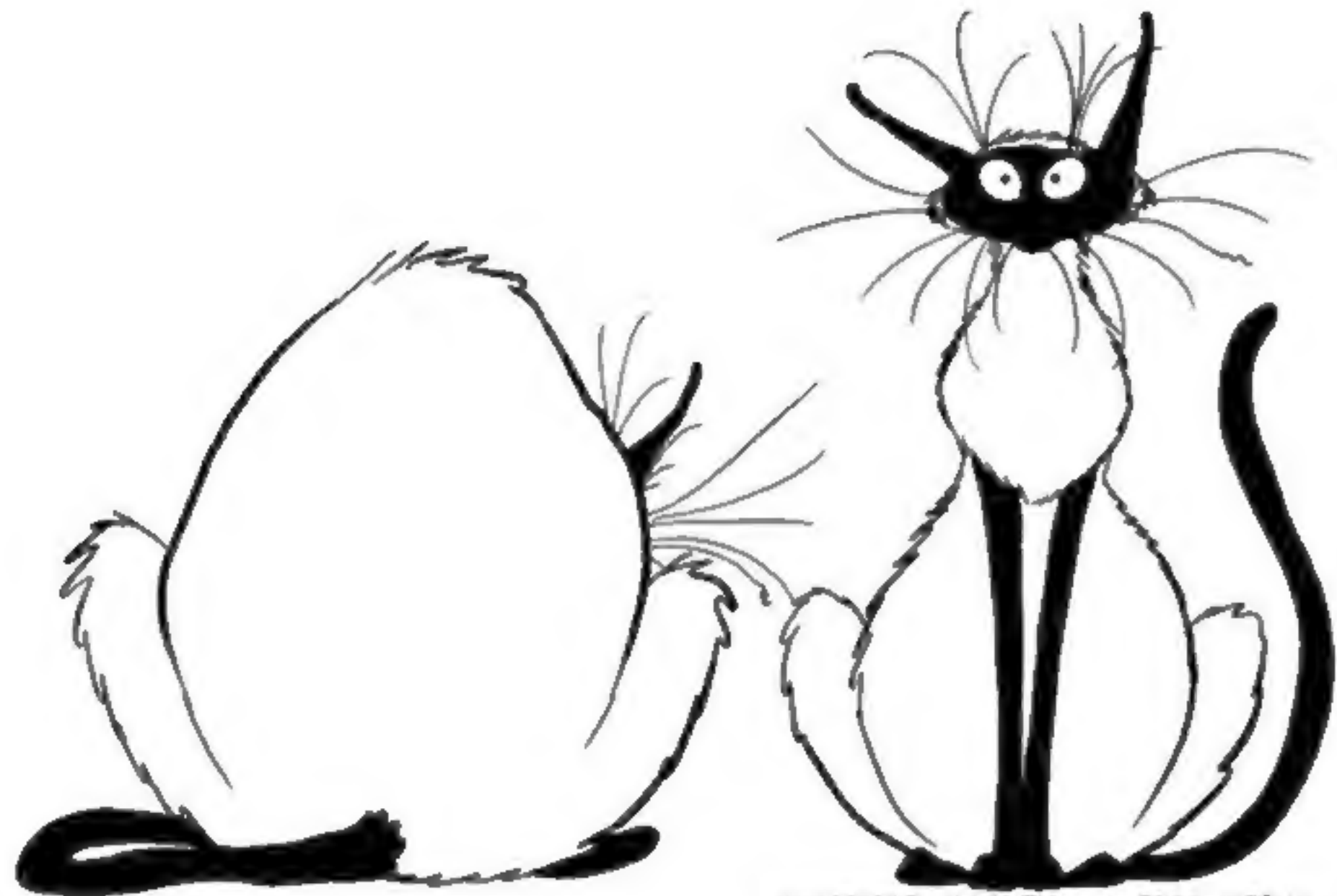
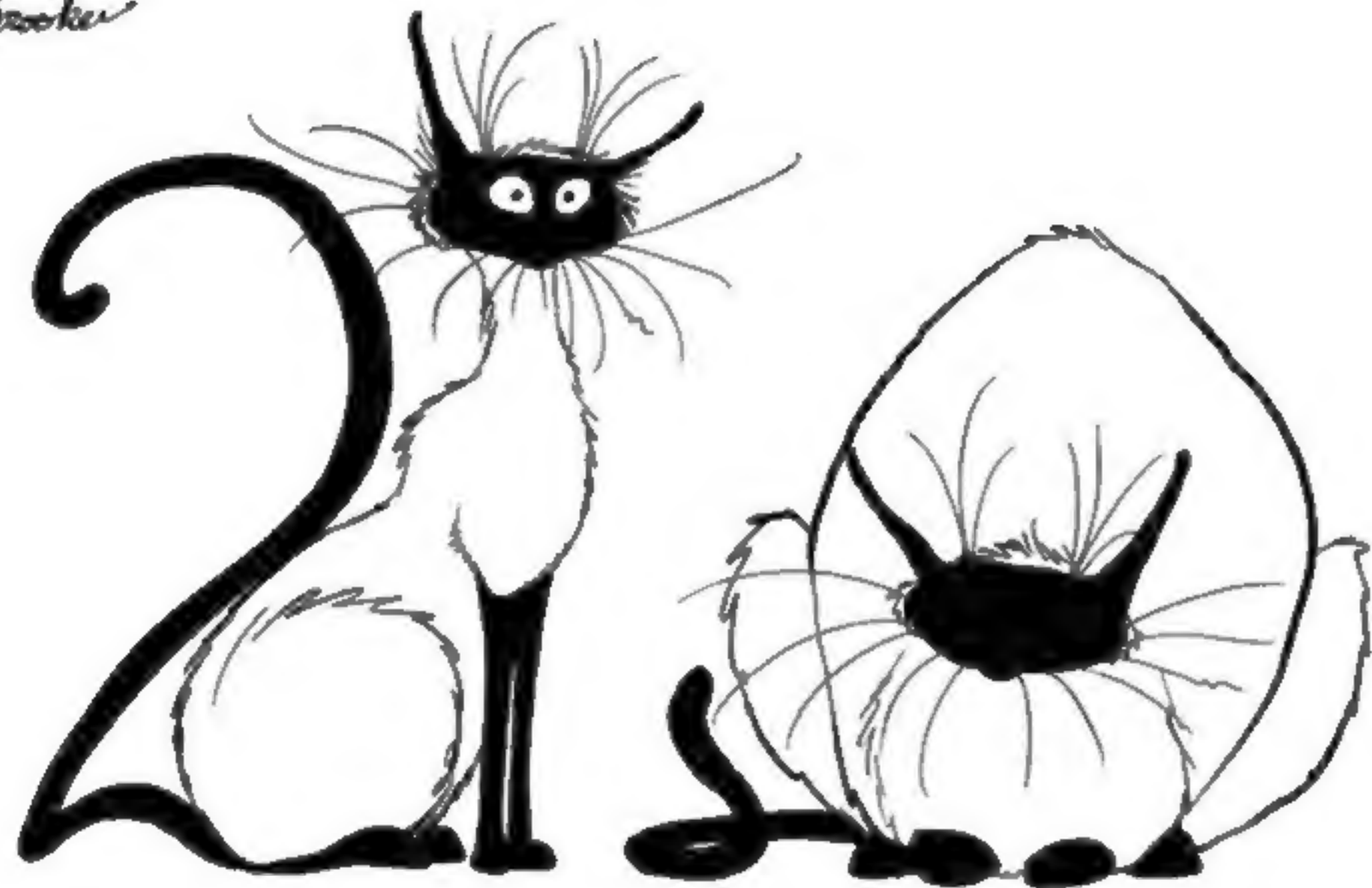




2008

Brooke



WELL, TIME'S UP. WE CAN GO IN AND SEE THE PREGNANCY TEST.

WHAT WILL WE DO IF IT'S POSITIVE? I MEAN, THE EXPENSE ALONE...

AFTER YOU.

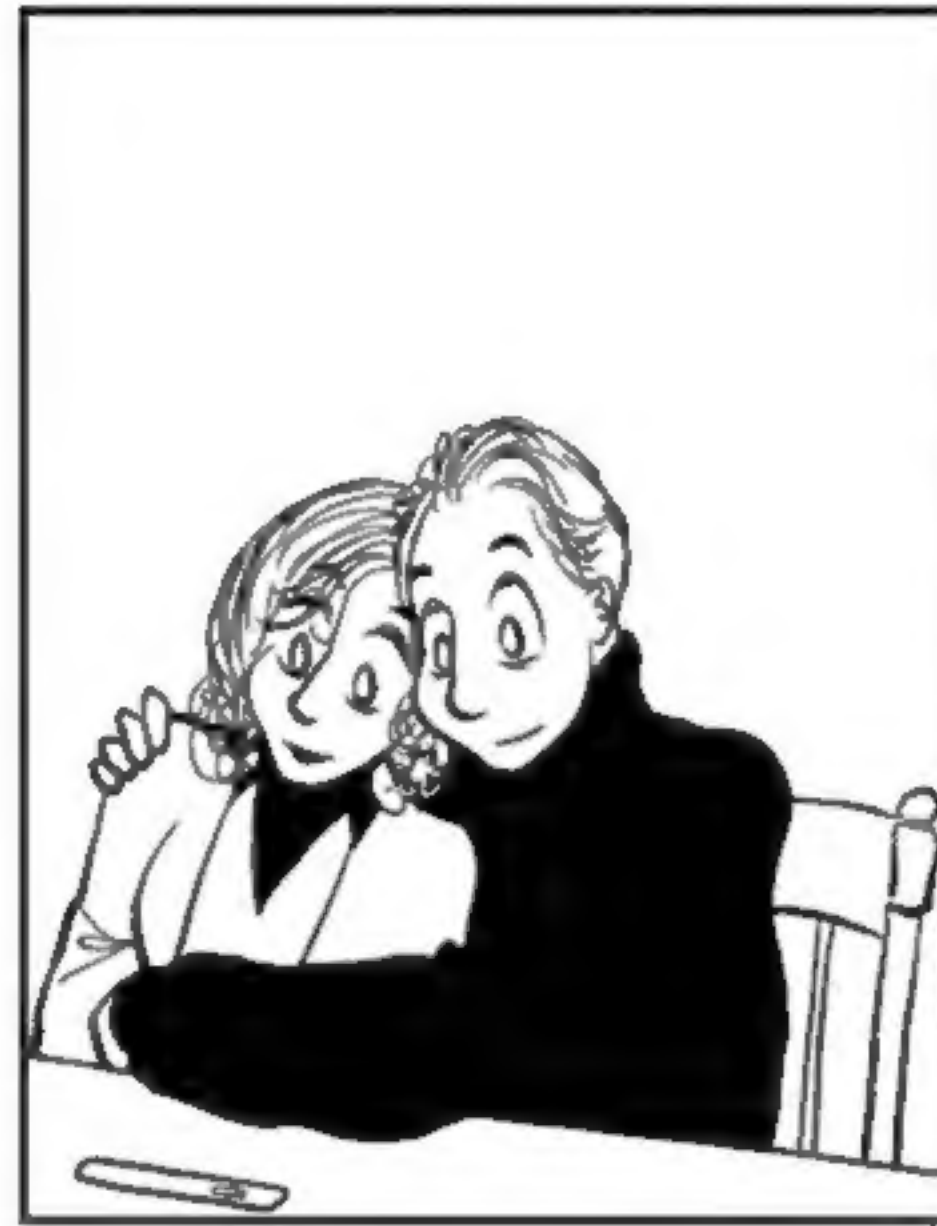
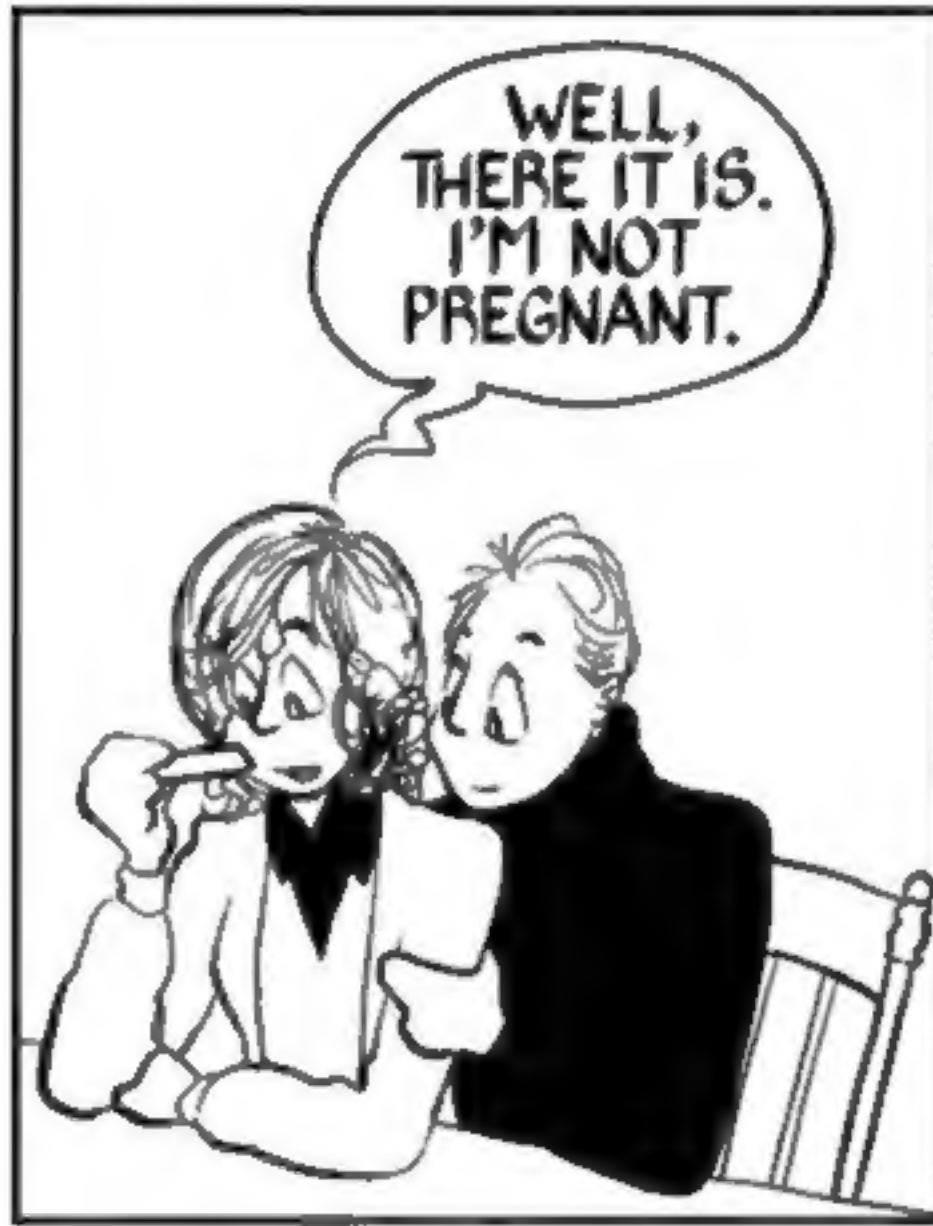
NO... AFTER YOU.

DON'T YOU WANT TO KNOW?

OF COURSE. IT'S ABOUT TIME.

I AGREE.

ROCK, PAPER, SCISSORS?





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SOMETIMES I JUST  
DON'T FEEL ASSERTIVE  
ENOUGH.



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AH...I THINK I HAVE  
JUST THE LEOTARD  
FOR YOU.



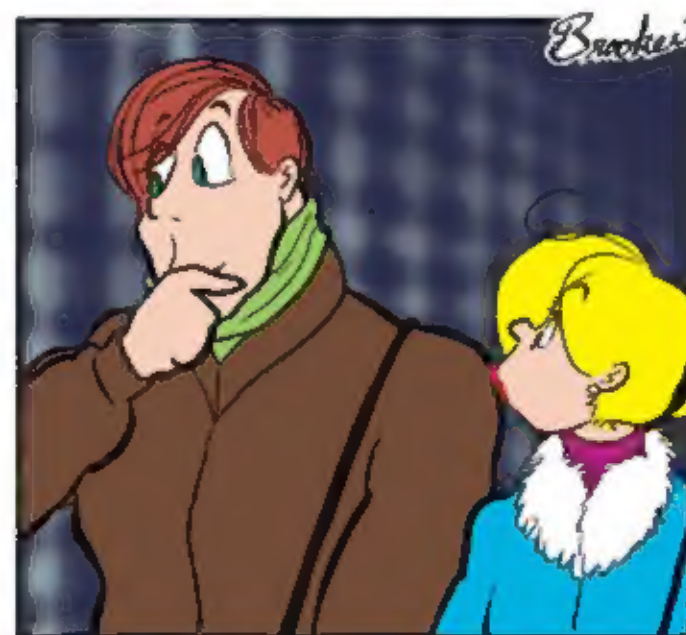
*Brooke*

YOU  
MADE  
THE PIANIST  
CRY AND RUN  
FROM THE ROOM.  
THEY SAY HE'S  
HIDING UNDER  
A PILE OF  
TUTUS.



HE'D BETTER  
LEARN TO PLAY  
THE RIGHT  
TEMPO.







IS "EARTHLING" A REAL  
WORD? I MEAN, DO YOU  
SUPPOSE SPECIES ALIEN TO  
THIS PLANET REFER TO US  
THAT WAY?

THE TERM ORIGINATED IN  
1593, FURTHER CEMENTING  
THIS PLANET'S OVER-  
ESTIMATION OF ITS  
OWN IMPORTANCE.  
...AMONG THOSE OF  
US WHO CRUISE  
THE COSMOS,  
EARTH IS  
KNOWN ONLY  
AS "A JOINT."



*Brooke*

ODDLY,  
I LIKE  
THAT.

AND THE BURGERS  
ARE EXCELLENT  
TOO.





YOU'RE  
TEACHING  
PEOPLE TO  
READ IT?

NO...  
...TO SPEAK  
IT.

BODY LANGUAGE  
\$5 PER HOUR

NOW THIS,  
FOR INSTANCE,  
IS A GERUND.

HOW  
ABOUT  
THIS?

I SEE  
YOU'VE  
ALREADY  
MASTERED  
THE  
IMPERATIVE  
MOOD.









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GENERALLY SPEAKING, WE NEVER  
USE THE TERM "VISITING ASSISTANT  
PROFESSOR." THAT IS  
ADMINISTRATION-SPEAK  
CODE FOR  
THE CONDEMNED.  
WE PREFER TO SAY  
"ZOMBIE CHOW,"  
"ROADKILL,"  
"THE DOOMED,"  
"SUCKED DRY..."  
...AND SPAT OUT."

*Barker*



I STILL WRITE  
"VISITING ASST.  
PROF." ON MY  
RESUME.

THAT'S  
RIGHT...  
...KEEP THAT  
PRETTY CHIN  
UP...BE BRAVE.

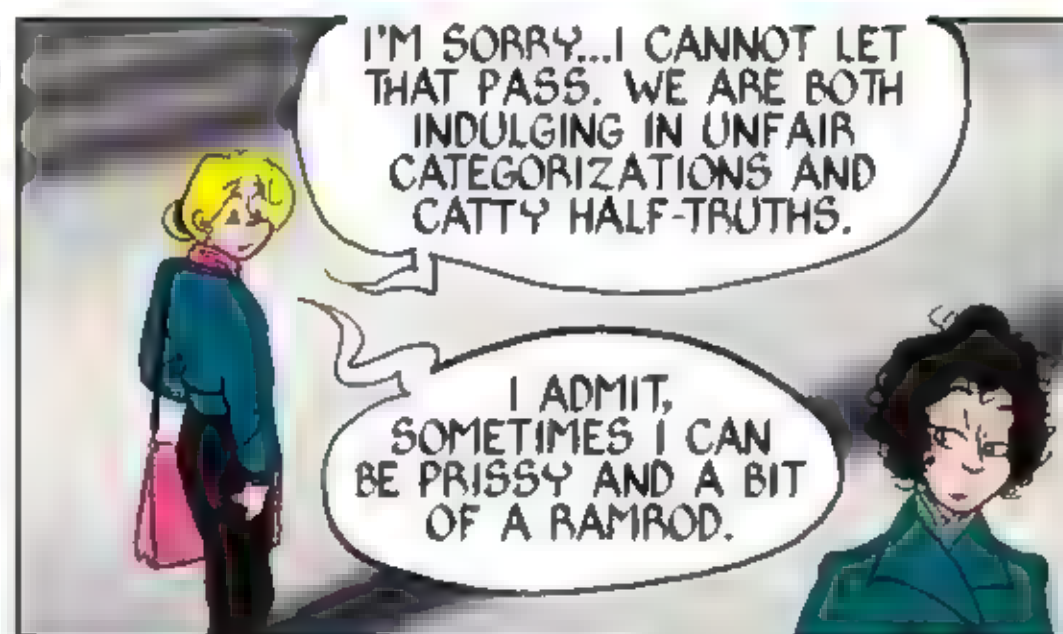
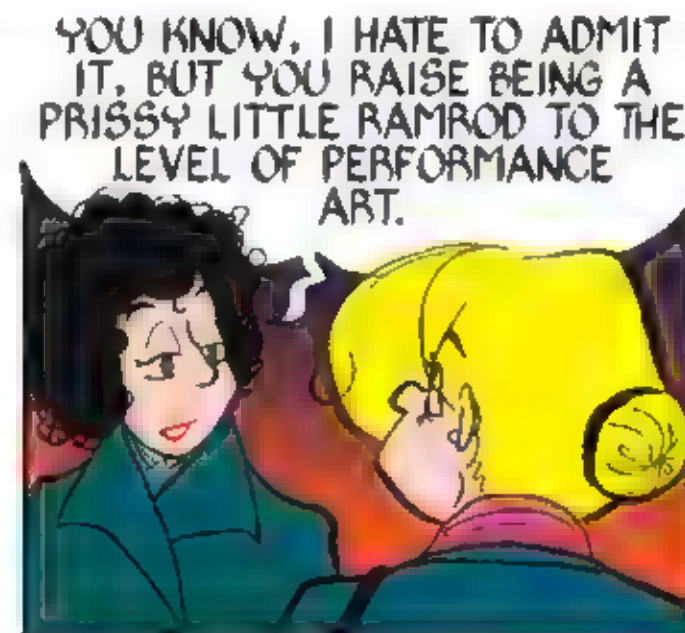
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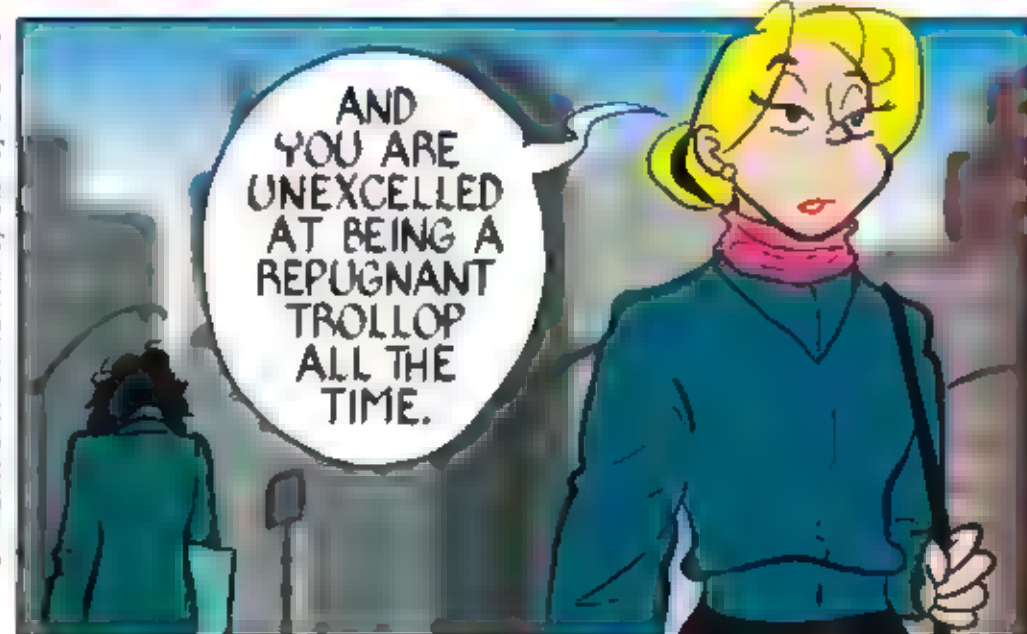
I THINK  
I'M  
BEGINNING  
TO HATE  
YOU.



ACADEME'S  
A DUMPSTER,  
PUMPKIN.  
...AND I DON'T  
EXACTLY WANT  
TO NIBBLE ON  
YOUR EAR EITHER.



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YOU'VE DESTROYED THE  
LIFE FORCE OF OUR ONLY  
VISITING ASSISTANT  
PROFESSOR...NOW ALL THE  
MISERABLE CREATURE DOES  
IS LEAN ON A VENDING  
MACHINE, DEplete IT OF  
STALE PASTRIES  
AND STARE  
INTO THE DIS-  
TANCE.



I ONLY  
TOLD  
HER  
THE  
TRUTH.

THIS IS AN ELEC-  
TION YEAR...BY  
COMMON LAW THE  
TRUTH IS LEGALLY  
SUSPENDED. WHO  
ARE YOU TO FLOUT  
CUSTOM?!



HERE'S MY TEACHER  
EVALUATION. AND MAY  
I SAY YOU DID  
A WONDERFUL  
JOB?



SHE'S  
JUST NOT  
PLAYING  
THE GAME.

I...I LIKE  
HER.



YOUR TREATMENT OF  
THE VIZASSPROF WAS  
INDEFENSIBLE. THIS IS  
A HUMAN BEING WITH  
THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS  
AND A SOUL...YOU  
CAN'T JUST  
BLUDGEON  
SOMEONE  
LIKE THAT  
WITH HONESTY.  
NOW HOW  
CAN I COAX  
THE CREATURE  
TO FINISH  
A SEMESTER?

I'LL TRY TO  
MAKE THINGS  
RIGHT.  
WHAT'S  
THE VIZ-  
ASS-  
PROF'S  
NAME?

*Barlow*

...UM.....HOLD ON A SECOND...

YOU DON'T KNOW IT,  
DO YOU?

THE THING IS,  
IT'S SO MUCH  
EASIER TO DEAL  
WITH THE DOOMED  
WHEN YOU DON'T  
GET CLOSE.

I'LL BET  
YOU'RE NOT  
EVEN CERTAIN  
OF THE  
SEX.





THE SECRET, BLACK LACE TORSOLETTE WITH THE RED BOWS AND ENOUGH FOUNDATION WIRE TO DIVERT MICROWAVES...THE LEOPARD-SKIN BODYSUIT...THE TWO-PIECE TIGER THONG...AND MY PERSONAL FAVORITE, THE STRAPLESS, RATTLESNAKE LEOTARD, SIZED LIKE SHRINK WRAP! WHEN YOU

GO BEFORE A MEETING OF TRUSTEES, THEY SENSE DANGER, THEIR JAWS DROP, THEIR SPINES GO RUBBERY.



YOU WAIT FOR THE SOUND OF LABORED, STERTOROUS BREATHING...THEN YOU MOVE IN FOR THE KILL...UNCONDITIONAL ACQUIESCENCE TO ALL YOUR DEMANDS.



EFFACE THAT WORD FROM YOUR VOCABULARY! YOU'RE A BEAST NOW! THINK ONLY...TIGER THONG!



I'VE BEEN IMPARTING TO  
A WET-BEHIND-THE-EARS  
VISITING ASSISTANT  
PROFESSOR MY KNOWLEDGE  
ON THE WAYS  
OF SECRET,  
JUNGLE  
ANIMAL  
PRINT  
UNDER-  
WEAR.



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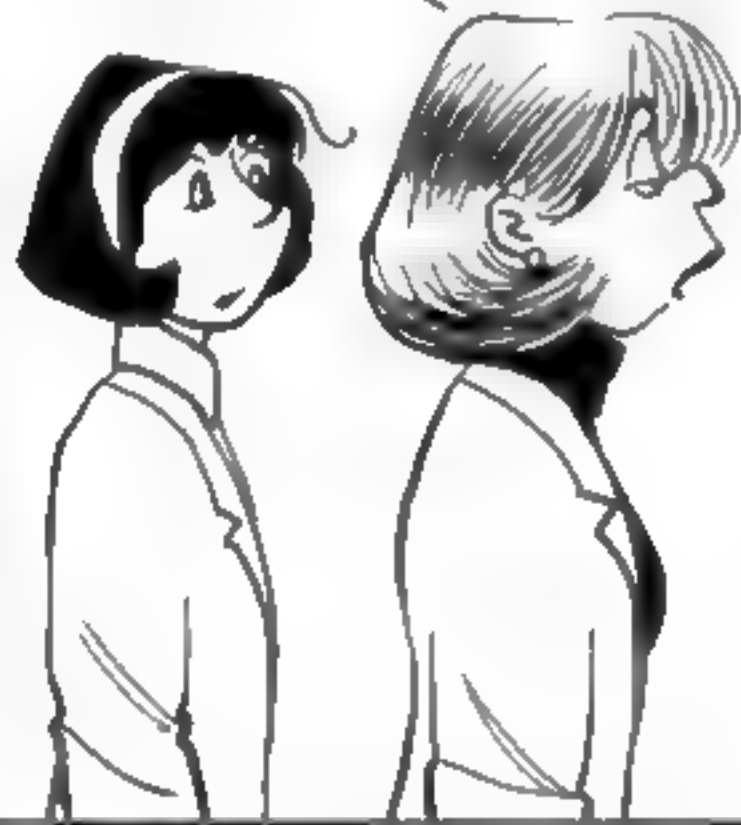
JUST AS WELL. YOU DON'T  
WANT THE SECRET TO DIE  
WITH YOU.  
WHAT DO  
YOU CALL  
HER?...  
...“GRASS-  
HOPPER”?



DON'T BE  
ABSURD.



I'VE DECIDED  
ON A NEW NICKNAME  
FOR YOU...



SO, HOW  
ARE THINGS  
WITH THE  
VIZASSPROF  
NOW?

PRETTY  
GOOD...SHE'S  
MEETING THE  
BOARD IN A  
TIGER-PRINT  
THONG.



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GOOD LORD! WHAT'S  
SHE ASKING FOR?

YOUR JOB,  
I BELIEVE.



ENOUGH  
CHITCHAT,  
BOYS...

...HOLD ON TO YOUR  
COMB-OVERS, AND LET'S  
TAKE A VOTE.

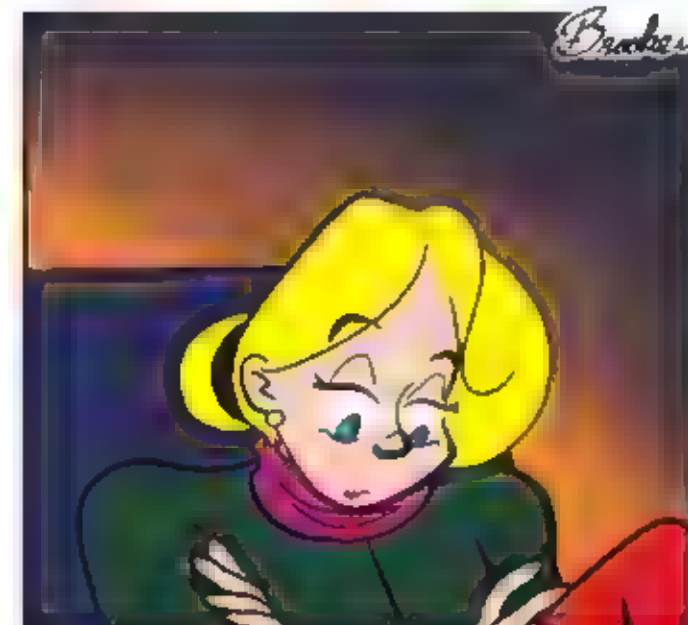
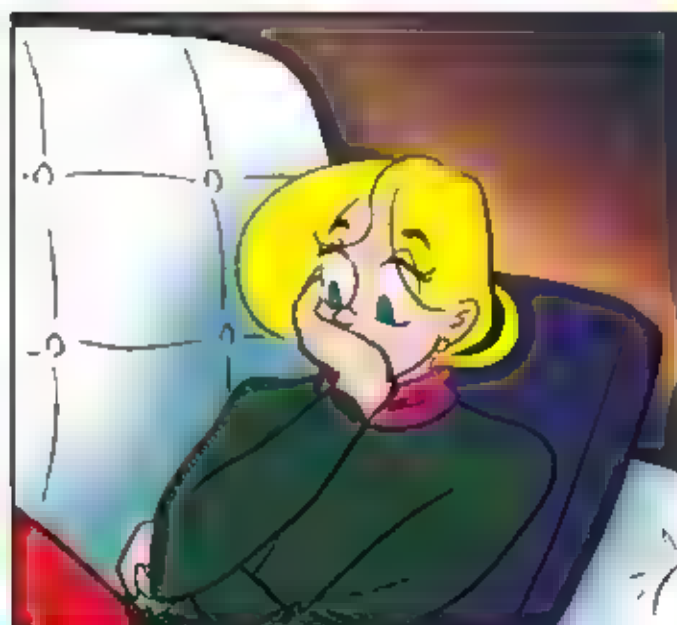
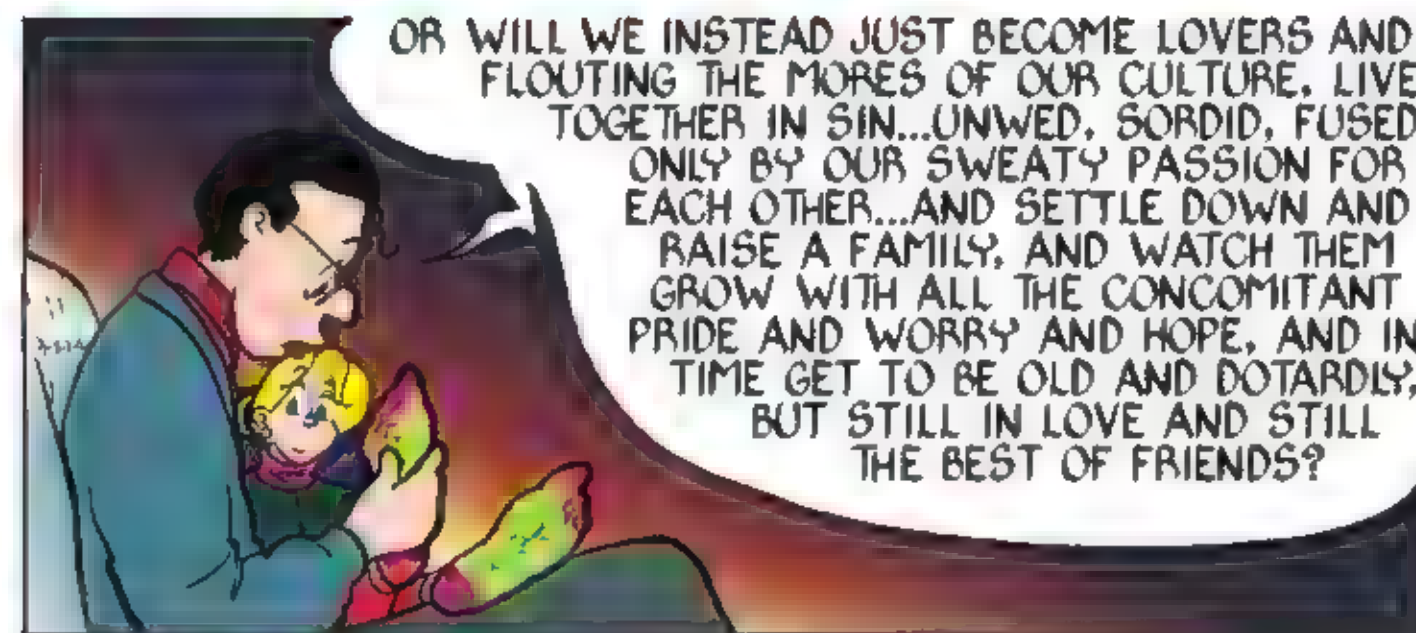
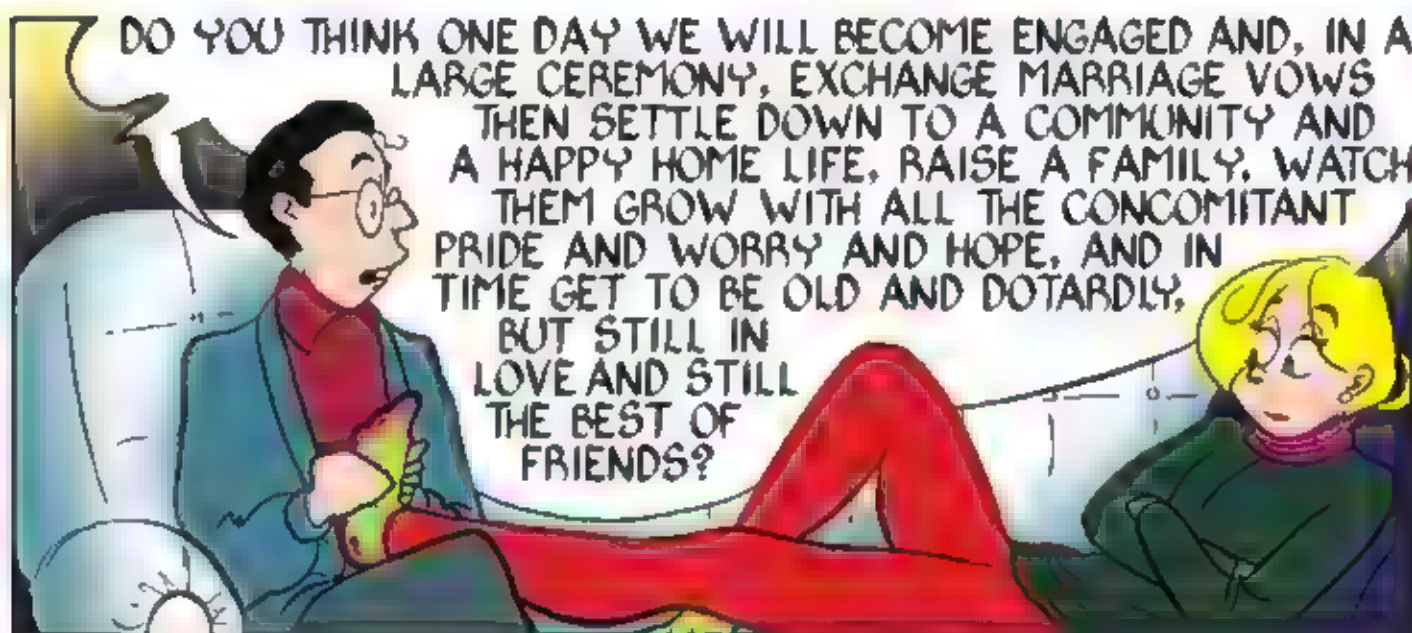
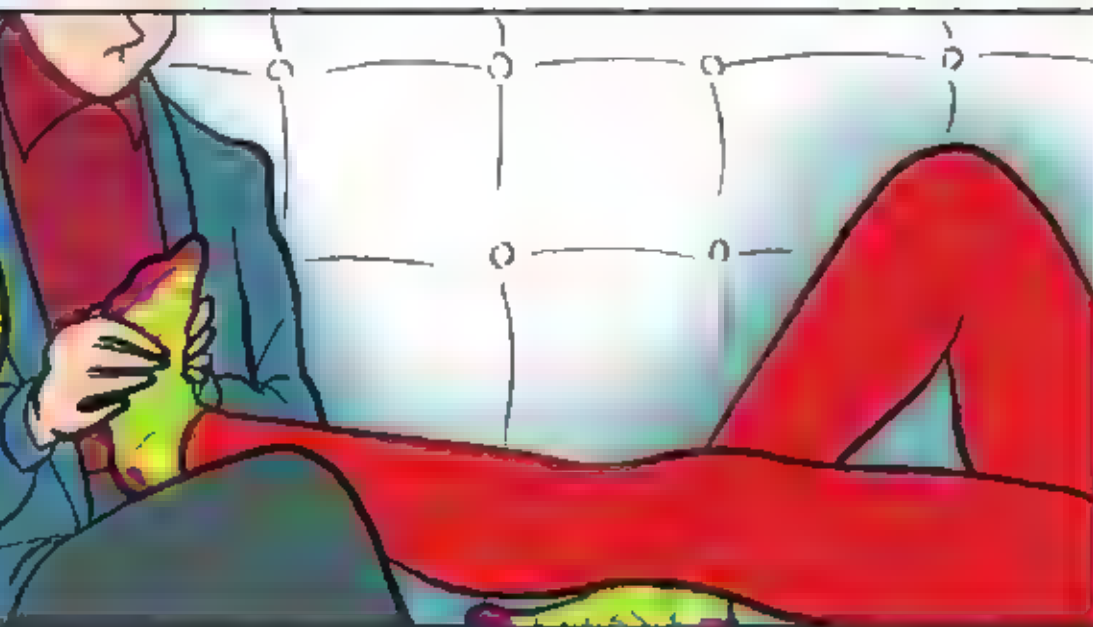


WHO HAS THE  
BLOOD PRESSURE  
CUFF?

Barker



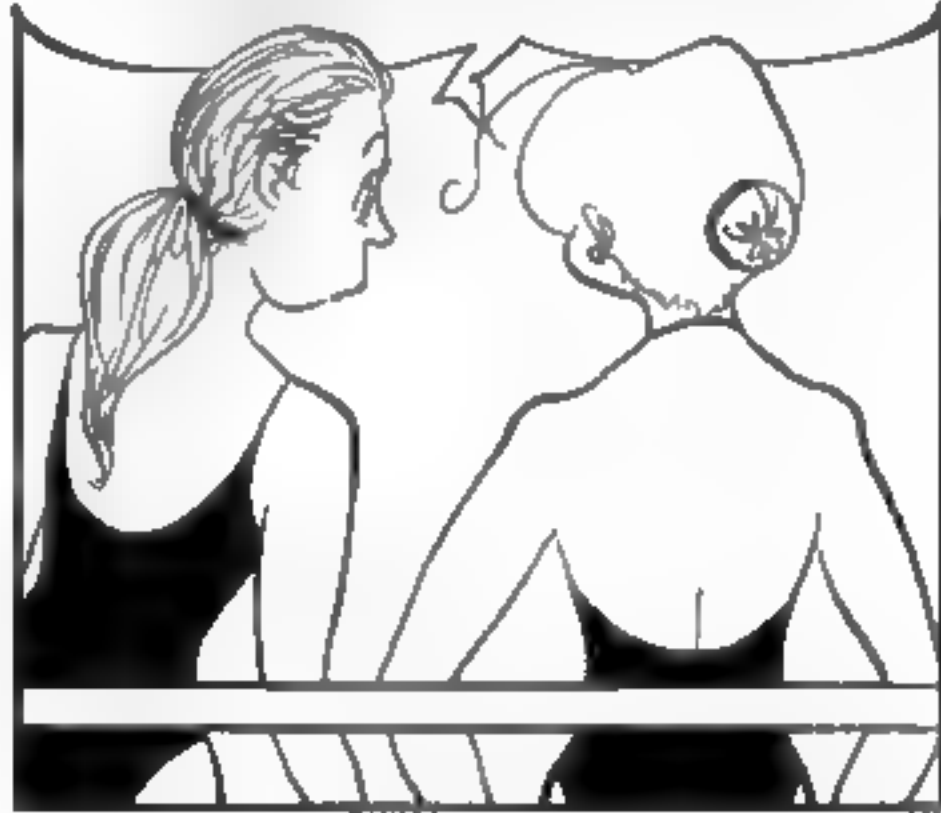
# 9 CHICKWEED LANE



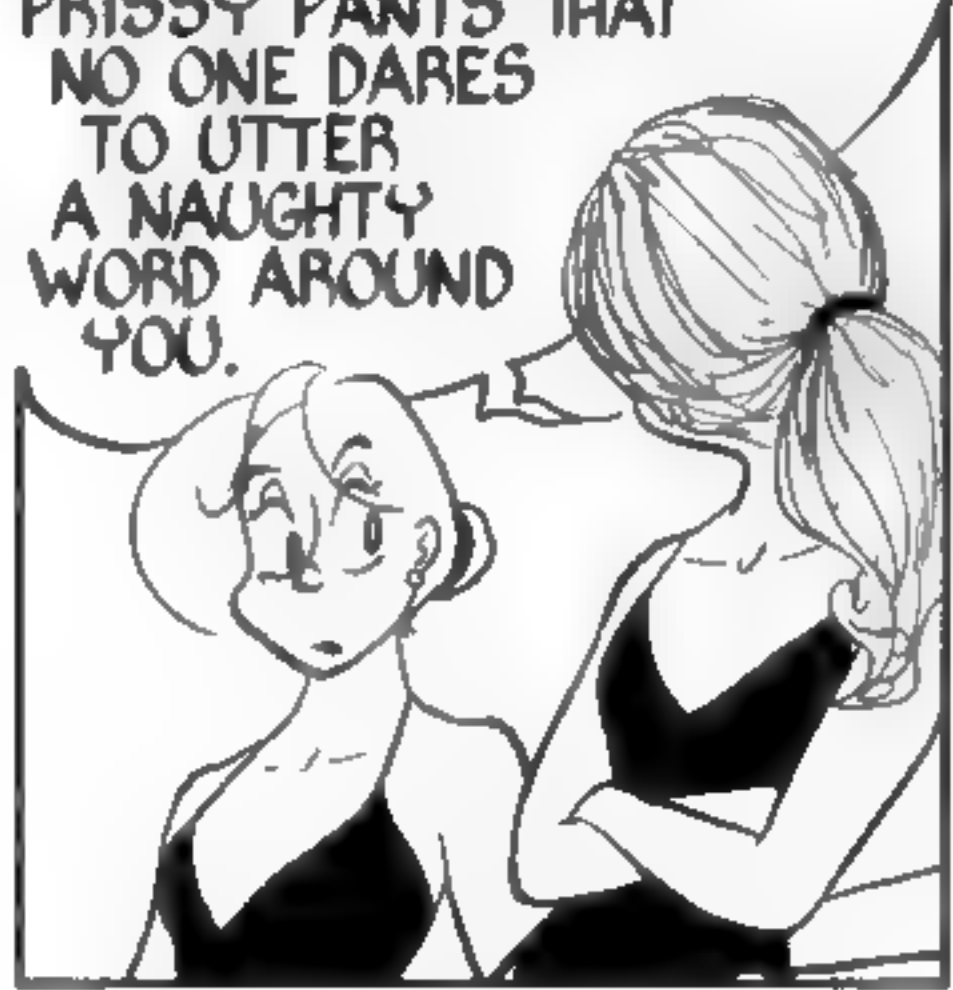
SO, EDDA, WHAT'S IT LIKE  
LIVING WITH A BIG SIDE  
OF BEEF LIKE SETH?  
DO YOU...  
...YOU  
KNOW...  
...rrrrr-  
rrowr!



I GATHER FROM YOUR  
EVOCATIVE SOUND EFFECT,  
THAT YOU WONDER IF MY  
RELATIONSHIP WITH SETH  
IS ANYTHING OTHER THAN  
DECOROUS AND COLLEGIAL.



THAT WASN'T WHAT I WAS  
ASKING AT ALL...BUT YOU  
ARE SUCH A NUCLEAR MISS  
PRISSY PANTS THAT  
NO ONE DARES  
TO UTTER  
A NAUGHTY  
WORD AROUND  
YOU.



WOULD YOU CALL ME A  
NUCLEAR MISS PRISSY  
PANTS?

OH, YEAH...  
...BUT YOUR  
HAIRBRUSH  
IS DISGUSTING,  
SO THAT BRINGS  
YOU BACK INTO  
ALIGNMENT.







IT'S THE STRANGEST THING.  
NOBODY SEEMS TO BE ABLE  
TO LOOK ME IN THE  
EYE AND USE  
DIRTY  
LANGUAGE.  
...SAY  
SOMETHING  
DIRTY TO  
ME.



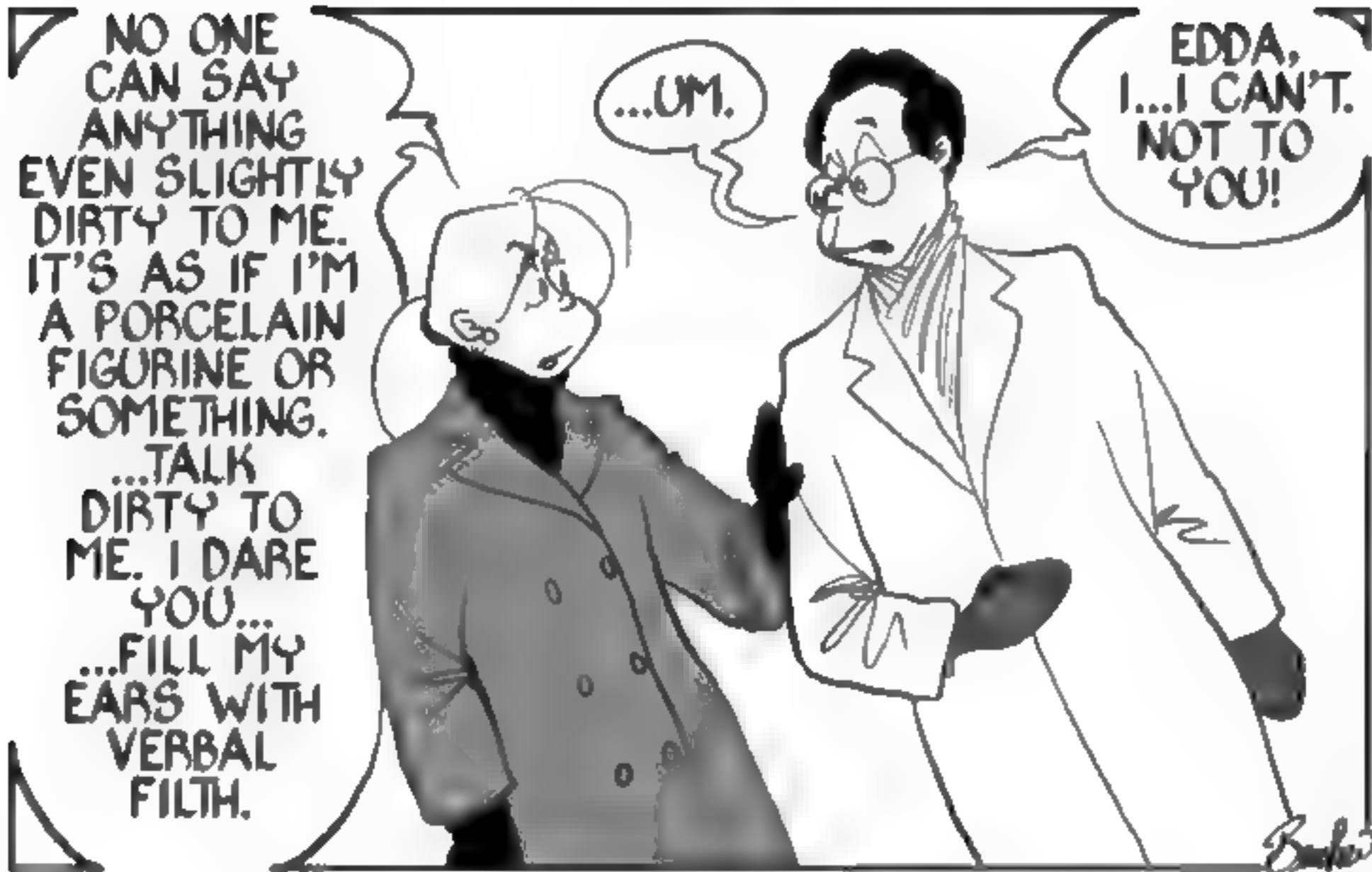
WELL, LET ME SEE...  
...DO YOU WANT JUST  
PLAIN POTTY-  
MOUTH HUMOR?  
PROSAIC CHAT  
INTERLACED WITH  
VILE ADJECTIVES?  
SINGLE, BLURTED  
EXPLETIVES?  
CARNAL  
SUGGESTION?  
DRAWN-OUT,  
FILTHY  
STORIES?...

YOU WOULD  
SEEM TO HAVE  
QUITE A  
REPERTORY.



SOCIAL PARIAS SPEND  
A LOT OF TIME  
IN SCHOOL  
LISTENING  
TO THE  
FASHIONABLY  
PROMINENT  
MAKE  
CONVERSATION.





I HAVE  
TO SAY,  
I DON'T  
KNOW  
WHY  
THIS  
BOTHERS  
YOU.



I DON'T KNOW EITHER,  
BUT IT DOES.  
NO ONE SAYS  
ANYTHING  
OFF-COLOR,  
EVEN  
VAGUELY  
SUGGESTIVE,  
AROUND  
ME.  
NOBODY  
CAN  
TALK  
DIRTY.  
IT'S  
LIKE A  
CURSE.



EDDA'S UPSET BECAUSE  
NO ONE TALKS DIRTY TO HER.  
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT WAS  
A PROBLEM.



I DIDN'T  
KNOW THAT  
WAS AN  
OPTION.



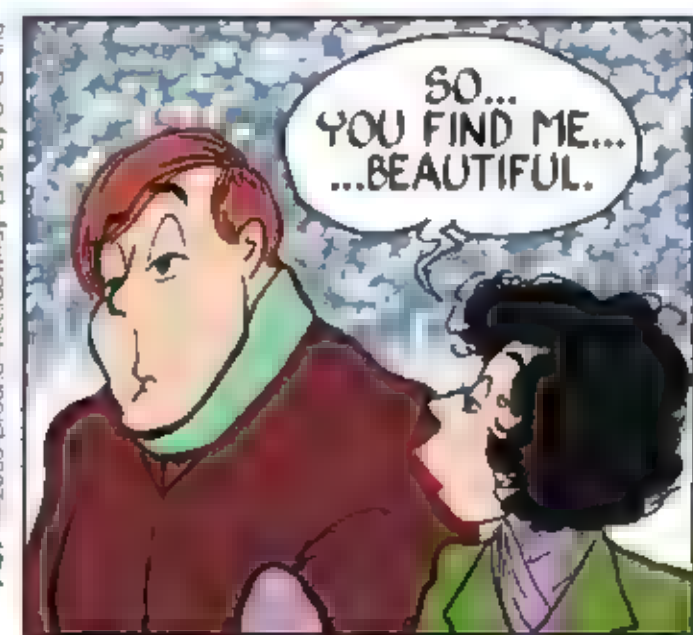
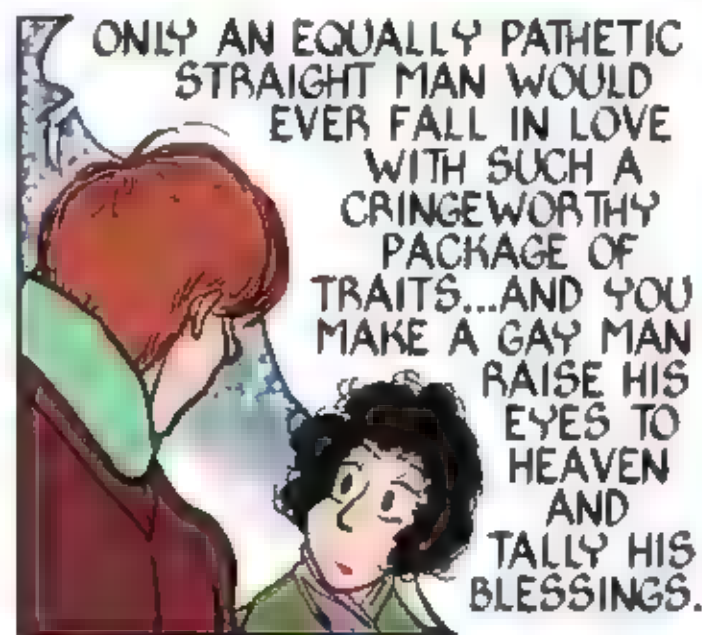
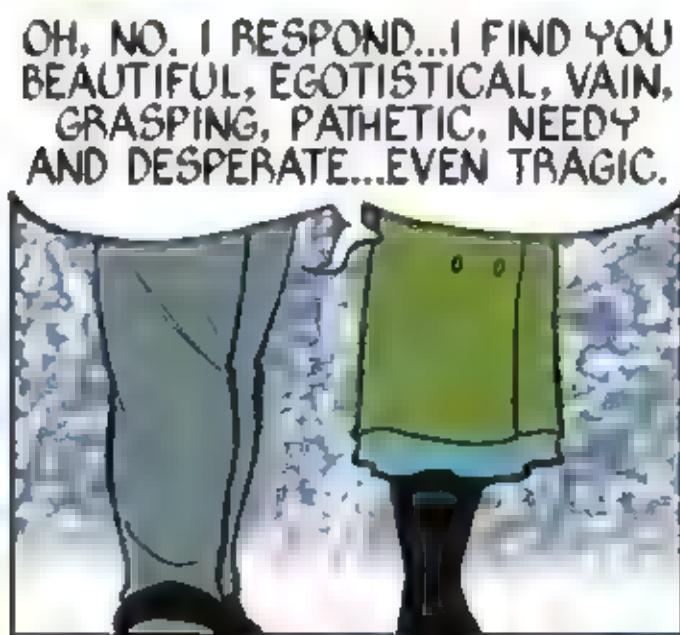
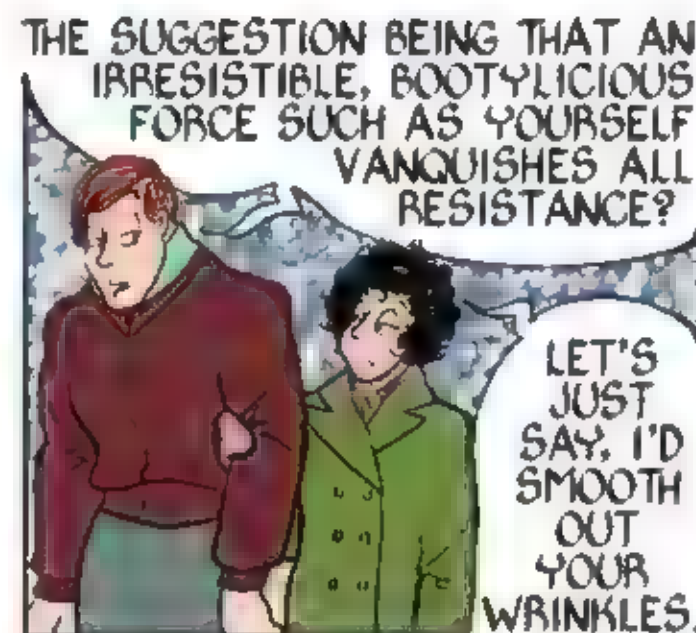
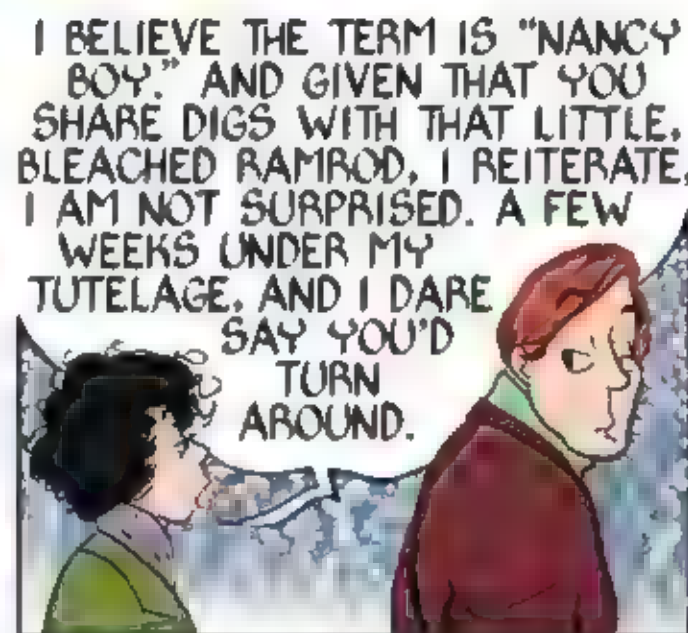
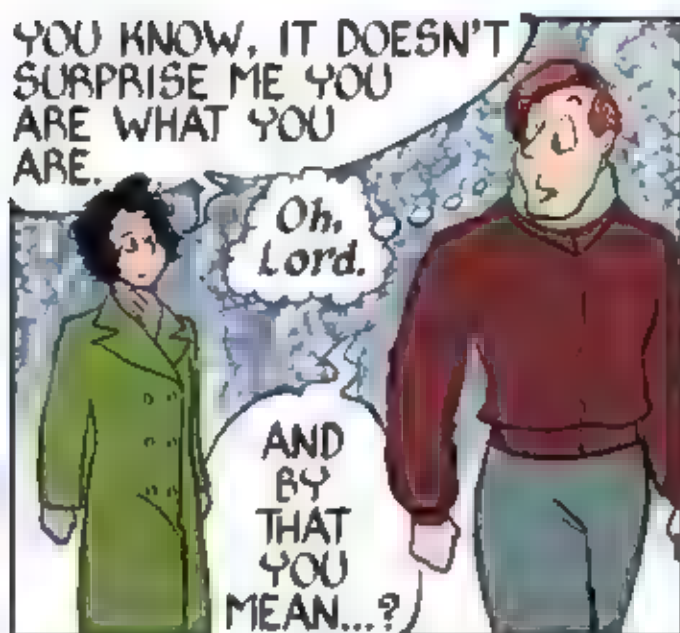


*Back*



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YOU REMEMBER HOW, WHEN  
YOU WERE A LITTLE GIRL,  
YOU USED TO TELL ME THAT  
MY NOSTRILS WEREN'T  
SYMMETRICAL?

I SURE DO...AND THAT  
WASN'T THE ONLY THING.

I HEARD YOU  
ON THE PHONE  
WITH EDDA.  
WHAT DID  
SHE HAVE  
TO SAY?

I DIDN'T  
DARE ASK.

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Barker



SO, WHAT'S THE STORY  
WITH YOU AND SETH...  
HAVE YOU—YOU KNOW—  
GOTTEN CLOSE?

DID YOU  
FORGET  
THAT  
SETH  
IS  
GAY?



NO, BUT THAT DOESN'T  
MEAN YOU CAN'T  
ALTER HIS COURSE.  
HAVE YOU EVER  
CHECKED?

IF YOU  
UNDERSTOOD  
GAY MEN AS  
I DO, YOU  
WOULD KNOW  
IT DOESN'T  
WORK THAT  
WAY.



EARLIER  
THAT YEAR

IT DOESN'T  
WORK  
THAT WAY,  
EDDA.

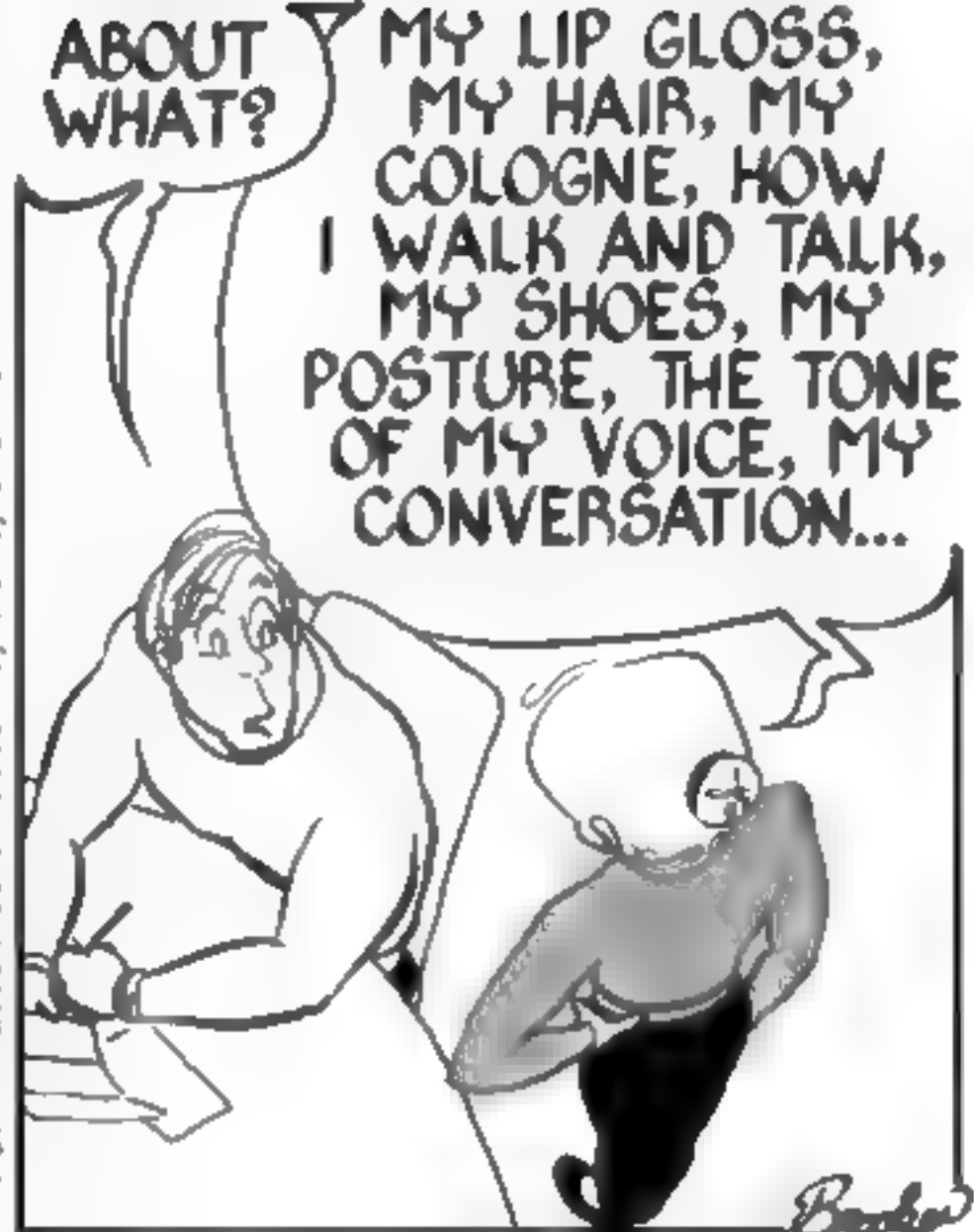


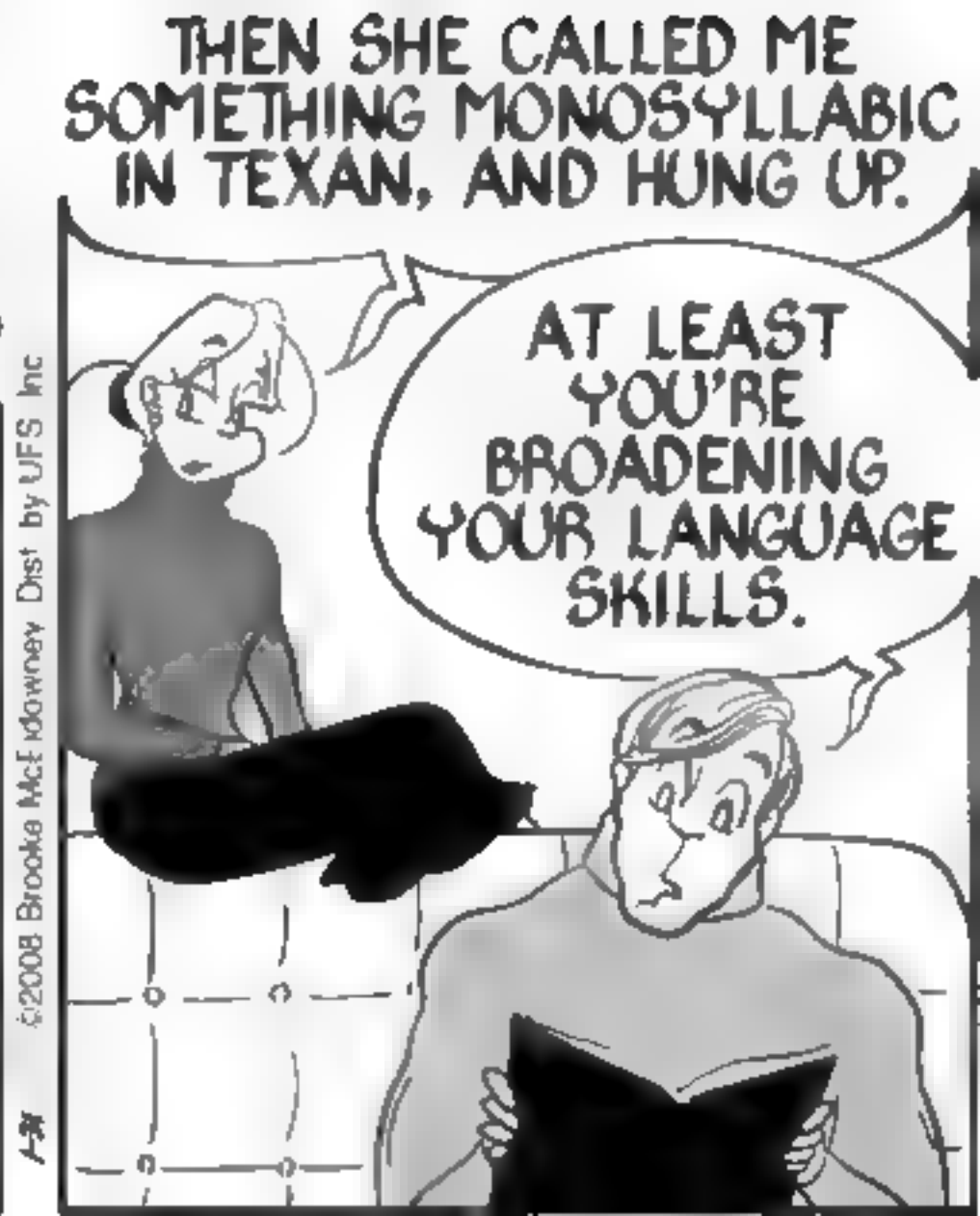
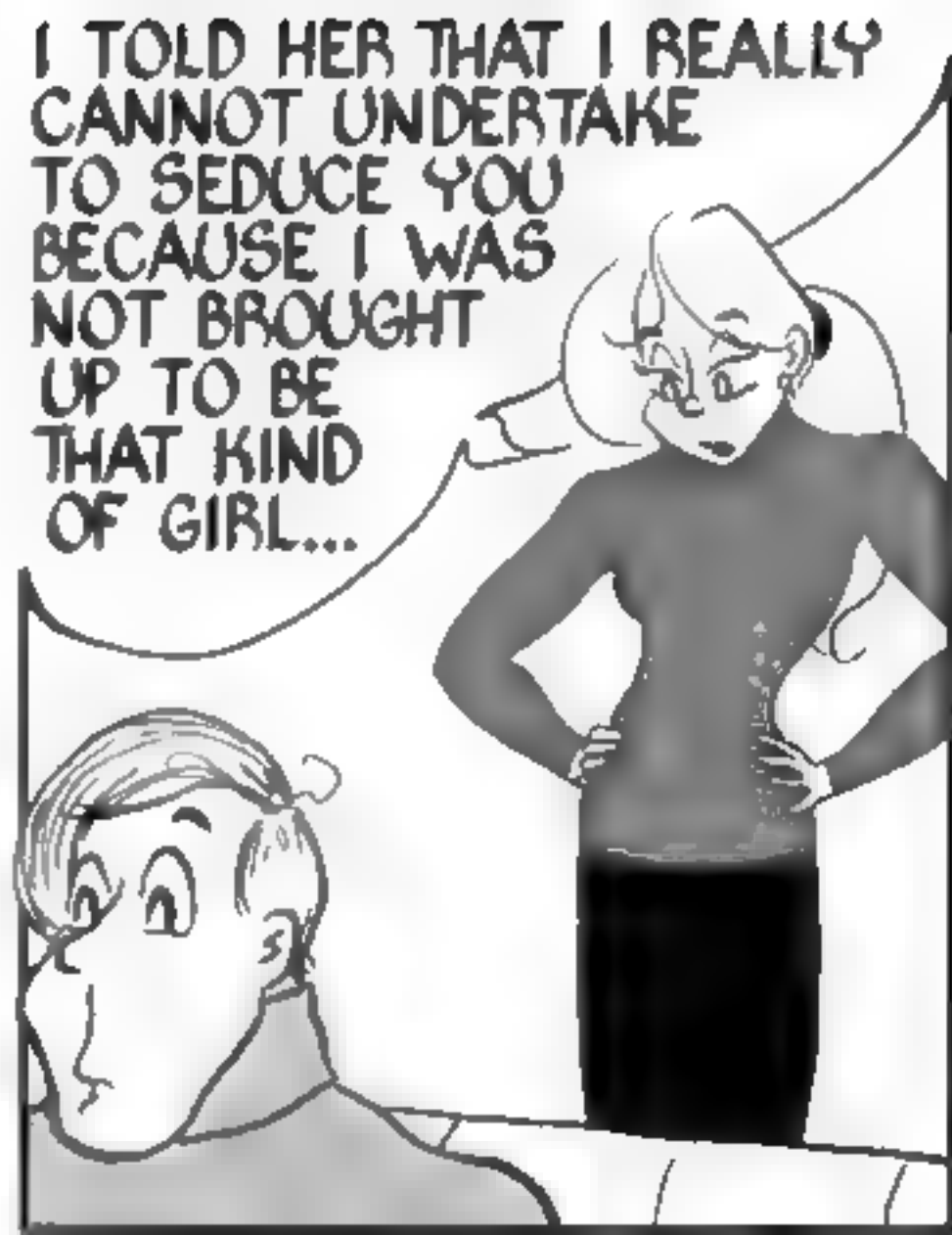
JUST  
CHECKING.



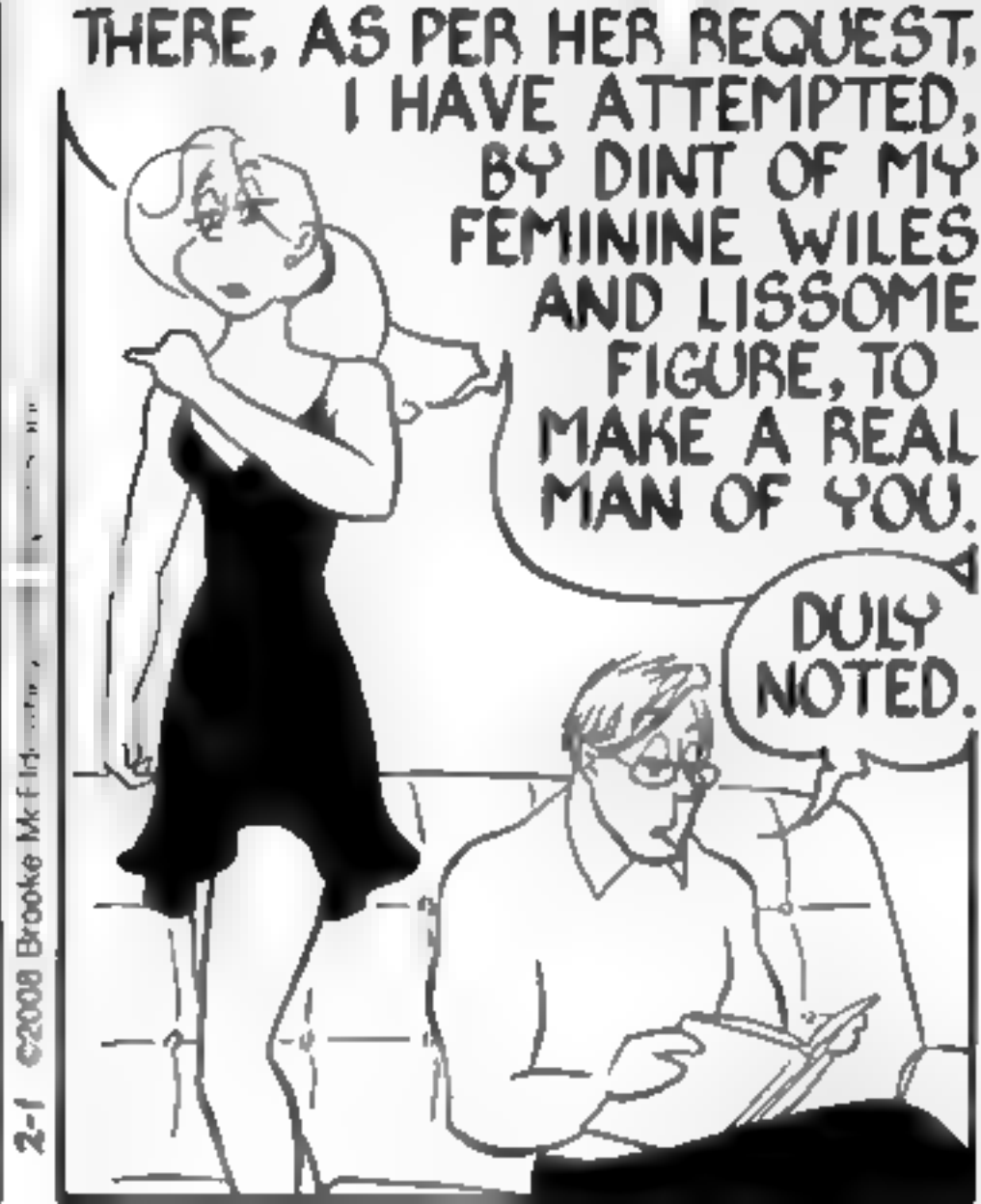


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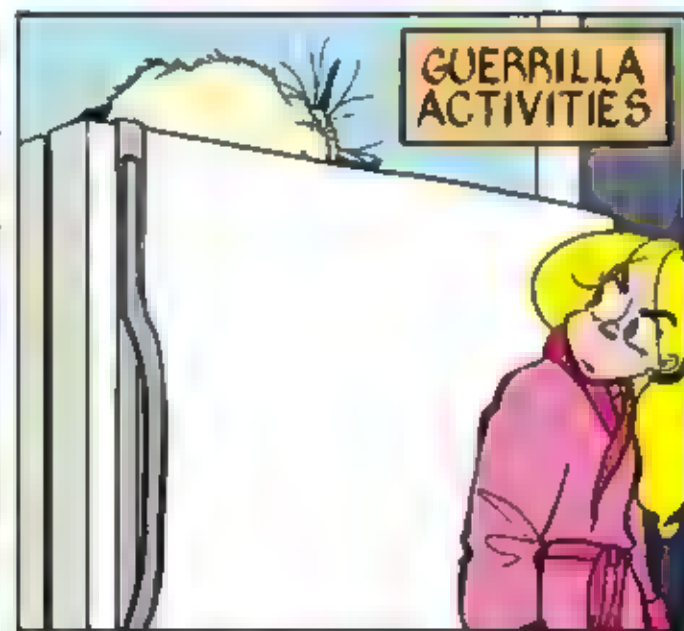
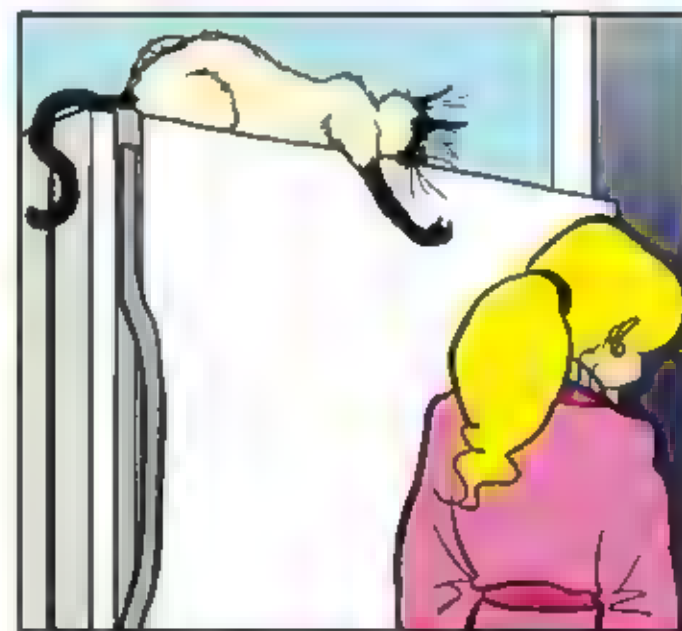
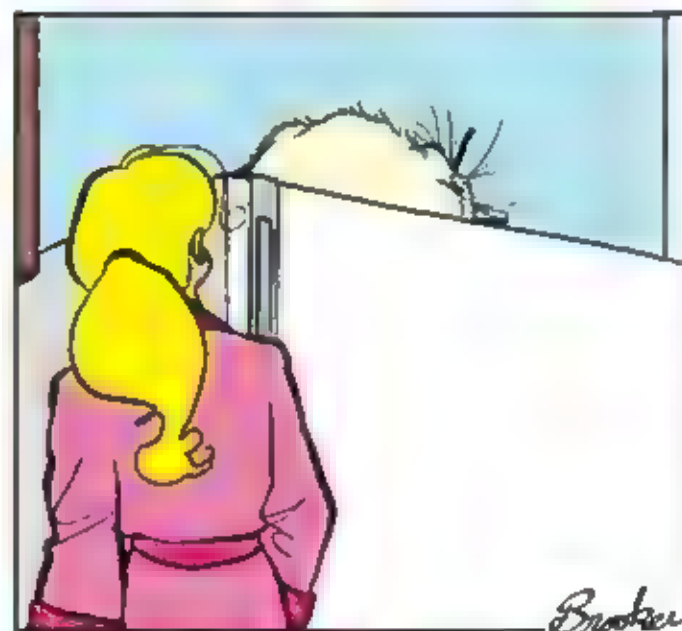
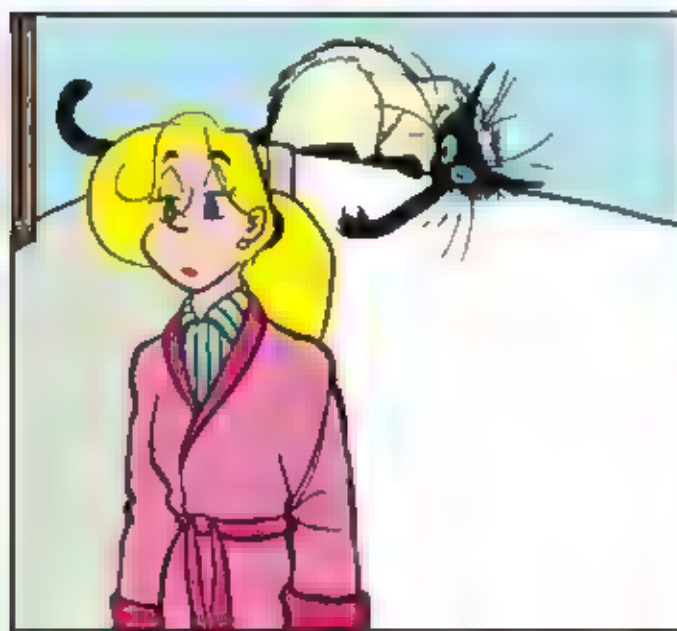














# THE DAILY THORAX HOROSCOPE

## ARIES

(MARCH 21-APRIL 19)

LARGE GROUPS OF FERAL CEO'S  
WILL BEGIN THEIR ANNUAL  
"LEAP OF THE GOLDEN PARACHUTES,"  
SCREAMING AS THEY PLUMMET  
FROM LOFTY, CORPORATE AERIES  
THAT THEY "WANT TO SPEND MORE TIME"  
WITH THEIR FAMILIES.

REMAIN INSIDE. DON'T ASK WHY YOUR  
CAT WATCHES YOU WHILE YOU UNDRRESS.  
THERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS BETTER  
UNANSWERED.

*Brooke*





# THE DAILY THORAX HOROSCOPE

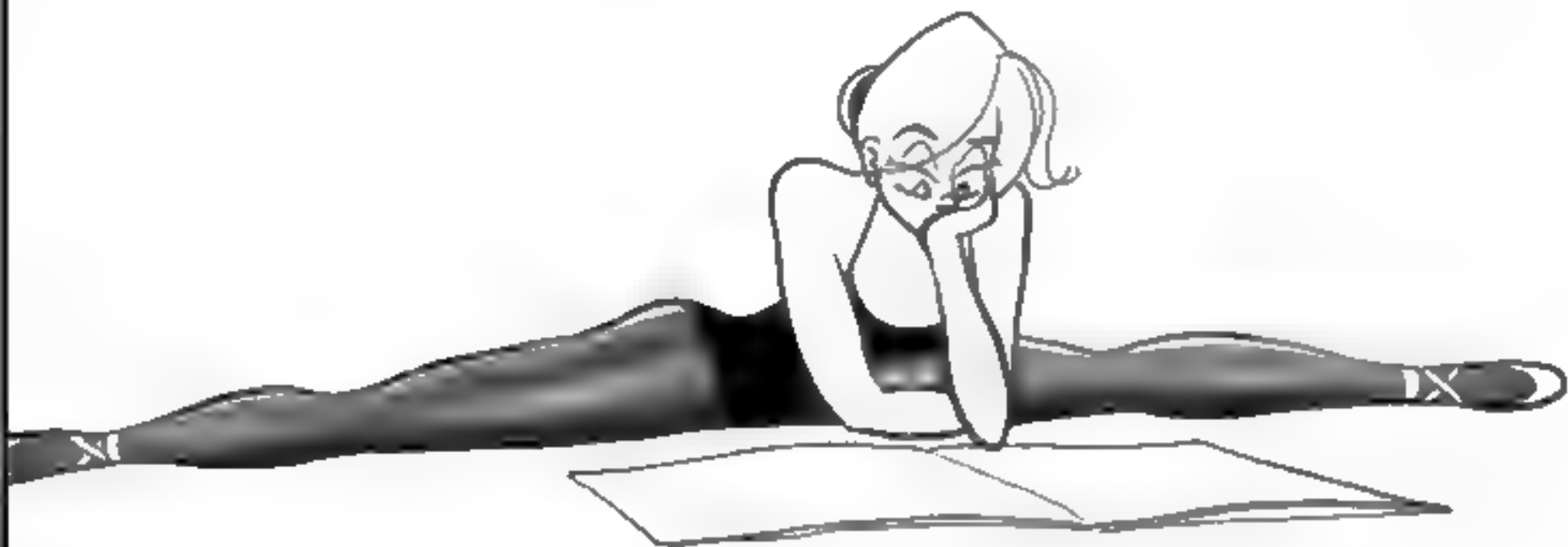
## TAURUS

(APRIL 20-MAY 20)

HAVING FINALLY BOUGHT INTO ELECTION RHETORIC THAT A BALLOT IS EACH CITIZEN'S MOST PRECIOUS GIFT, MILLIONS OF VOTERS WILL REFUSE TO SQUANDER THEIRS ON THE GLUT OF CRETINS AND LIARS PANDERING FOR OFFICE. THE LOT OF THE FREE WORLD WILL BE DETERMINED BY A PLURALITY OF VAGRANTS — OR "CONGRESS." LEAN A LITTLE MORE TO STARBOARD AND ADOPT AN EXPRESSION OF GASTROINTESTINAL DISTRESS. IT MAKES YOU LOOK THOUGHTFUL.

*Brooke*

# THE DAILY THORAX HOROSCOPE



## GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

MONEY MANAGEMENT FIRMS WILL TELL YOU THEY ARE CONFIDENT IN THE FUTURE, AND WILL SELFLESSLY HELP YOU BUILD YOUR FINANCIAL SECURITY BY LENDING YOUR MONEY TO BAD RISKS. IT IS TIME TO BUY A BLUNT SHOVEL - AND BE SPONTANEOUS WITH IT. DON'T DISCOUNT ROMANCE IN THE WANING DAYS OF THE PERIOD, BUT BE PARTICULAR AS TO SPECIES. YOU WILL EXPERIENCE A TENDENCY TO CLUMP IN KITTY BOXES.

*Brooke*



# THE DAILY THORAX HOROSCOPE

## CANCER

(JUNE 21-JULY 22)

DOES IT BOTHER YOU WHEN PEOPLE WALK UP TO YOU AT THE BEACH AND KICK SAND INTO YOUR FACE? IT'S TIME TO REVERSE THAT TREND. SHOW THEM WHAT YOU'RE MADE OF. BUILD UP THOSE ABS, TURN YOUR BODY INTO A TEMPLE. BECOME THE DYNAMIC, CAN-DO SORT OF PERSON YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO BE, THE SELF-ACTUATOR, THE TAKE-CHARGE PERSON. GO TO THE BEACH AND KICK SAND INTO YOUR OWN FACE.

*Brooke*



## LEO

(JULY 23-AUGUST 22)

DON'T BECOME OBSESSED WITH FEELINGS OF PARANOIA. REMEMBER, THEY ARE MERE DELUSIONS – PEOPLE ACTUALLY DO HATE YOU. THE CAUSE MAY BE TRACED TO A SIMPLE FUNGUS, POSSIBLY ONE WITH AN I.Q. NO HIGHER THAN 87 AND A NEED TO WALK TALL ACCOMPANIED BY THE STRAINS OF "HAIL TO THE CHIEF." TAKE A MULTIPLE-CHOICE EXAM, WITH EXTRA CREDIT FOR CLEARING YOUR THROAT QUIETLY. IT WILL CENTER YOU.

*Booker*





# THE DAILY THORAX HOROSCOPE

## VIRGO

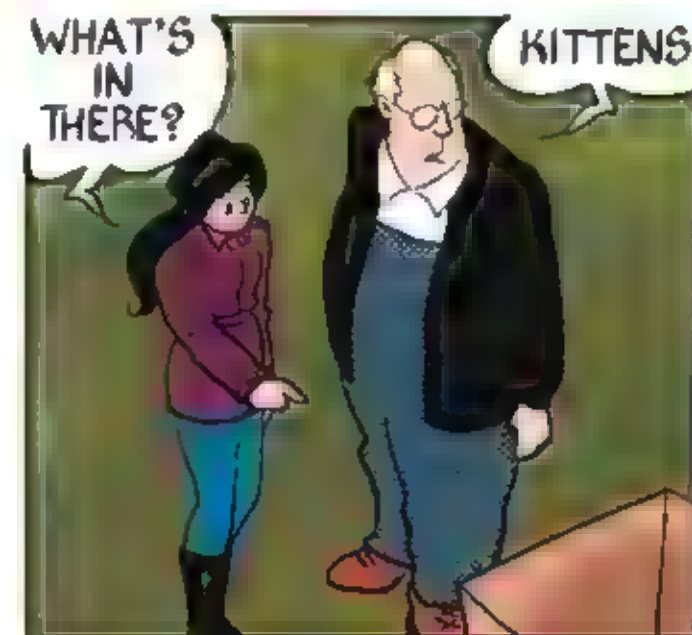
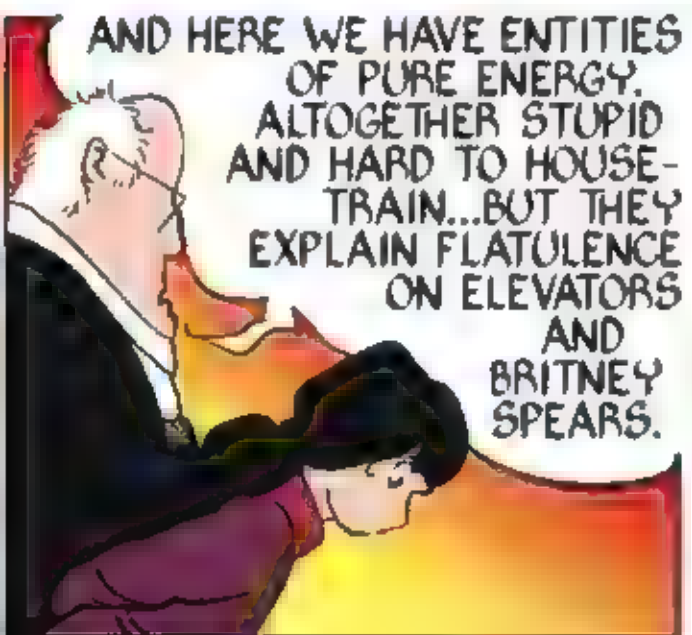
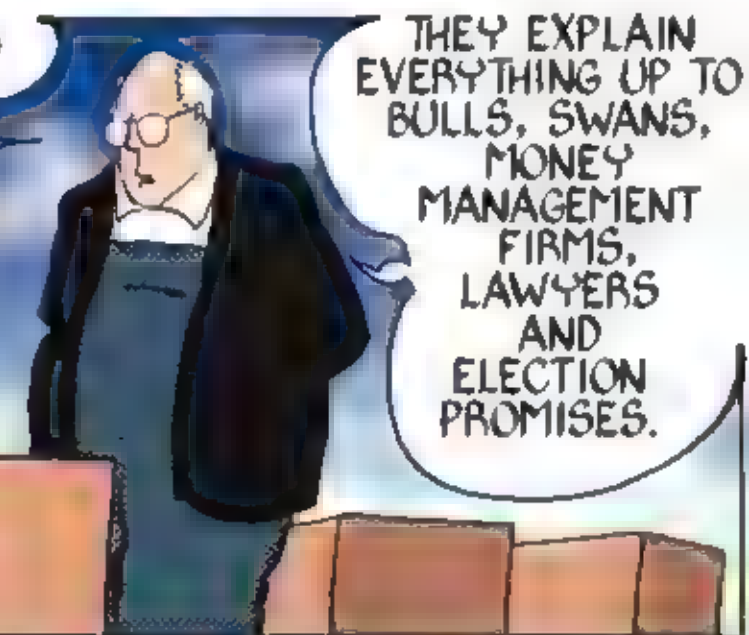
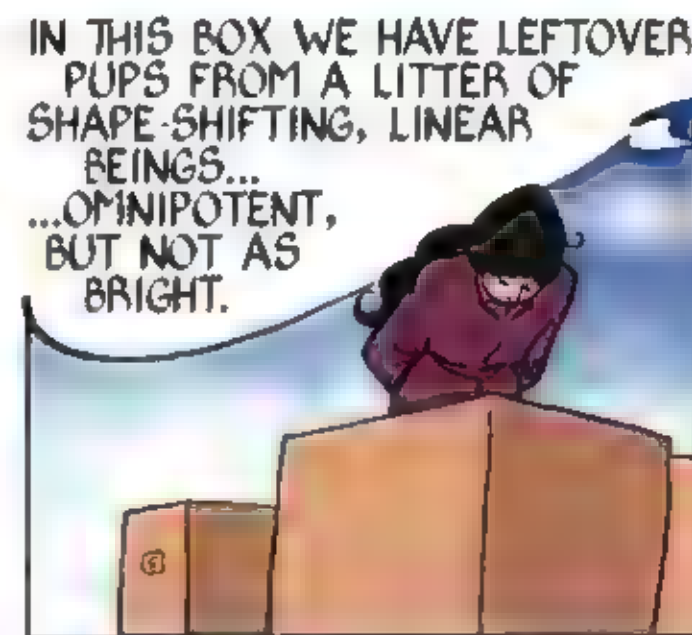
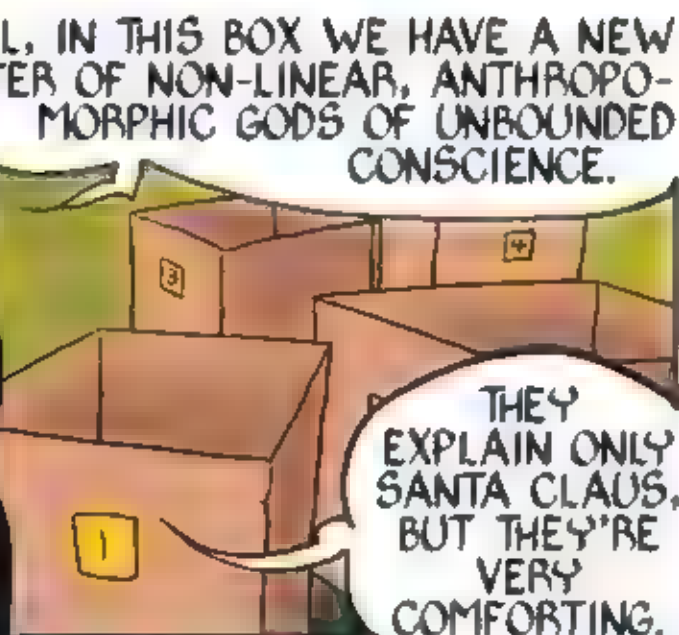
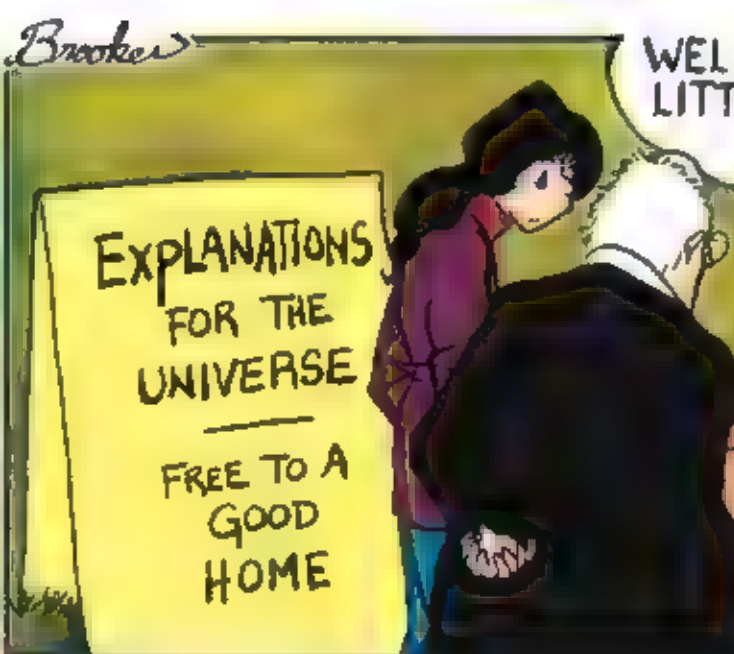
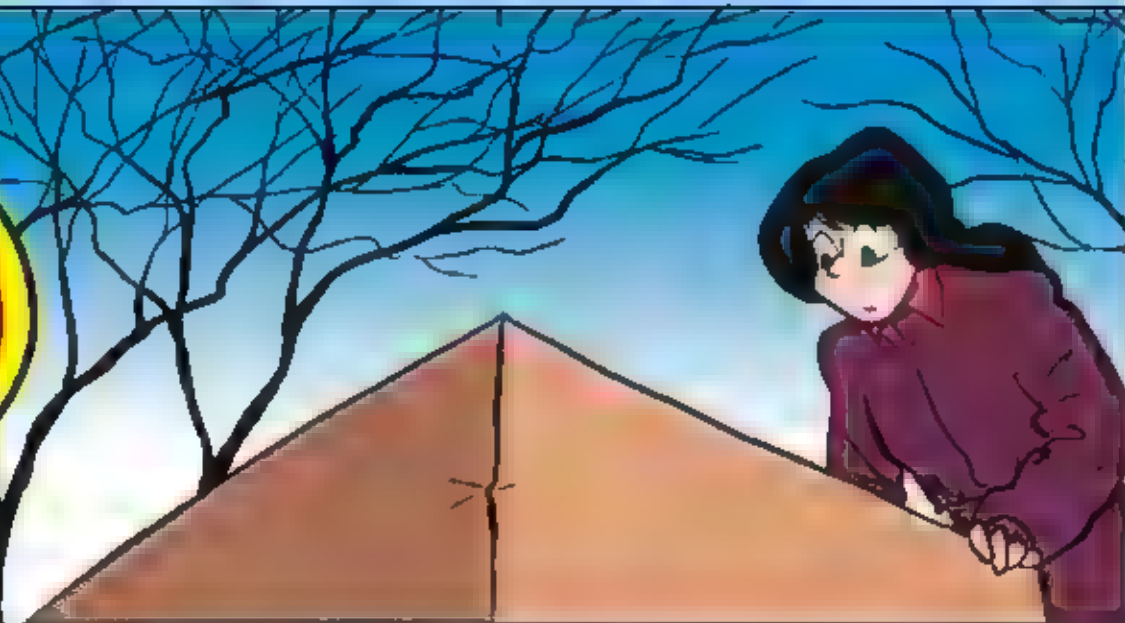
(AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22)

IN THE FIRST QUARTER (OR "TWO BITS")  
YOU WILL BE IN YOUR ELEMENT, PLAYING  
MAH JONGG AND TELLING SLIGHTLY DIRTY  
STORIES TO LADIES' CLUBS NATIONWIDE.  
IN THE SECOND HALF (OR "HINDQUARTERS"),  
RETIRE TO THE RESTROOM FOR A SMOKE.

FEEL FREE TO GIVE ME A CALL.

THE NUMBER'S ON THE STALL WALL.  
IF MY CAT ANSWERS, DISGUISE YOUR  
VOICE AND SAY "WRONG NUMBER."

*Barker*



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# THE DAILY THORAX HOROSCOPE

*Brooke*

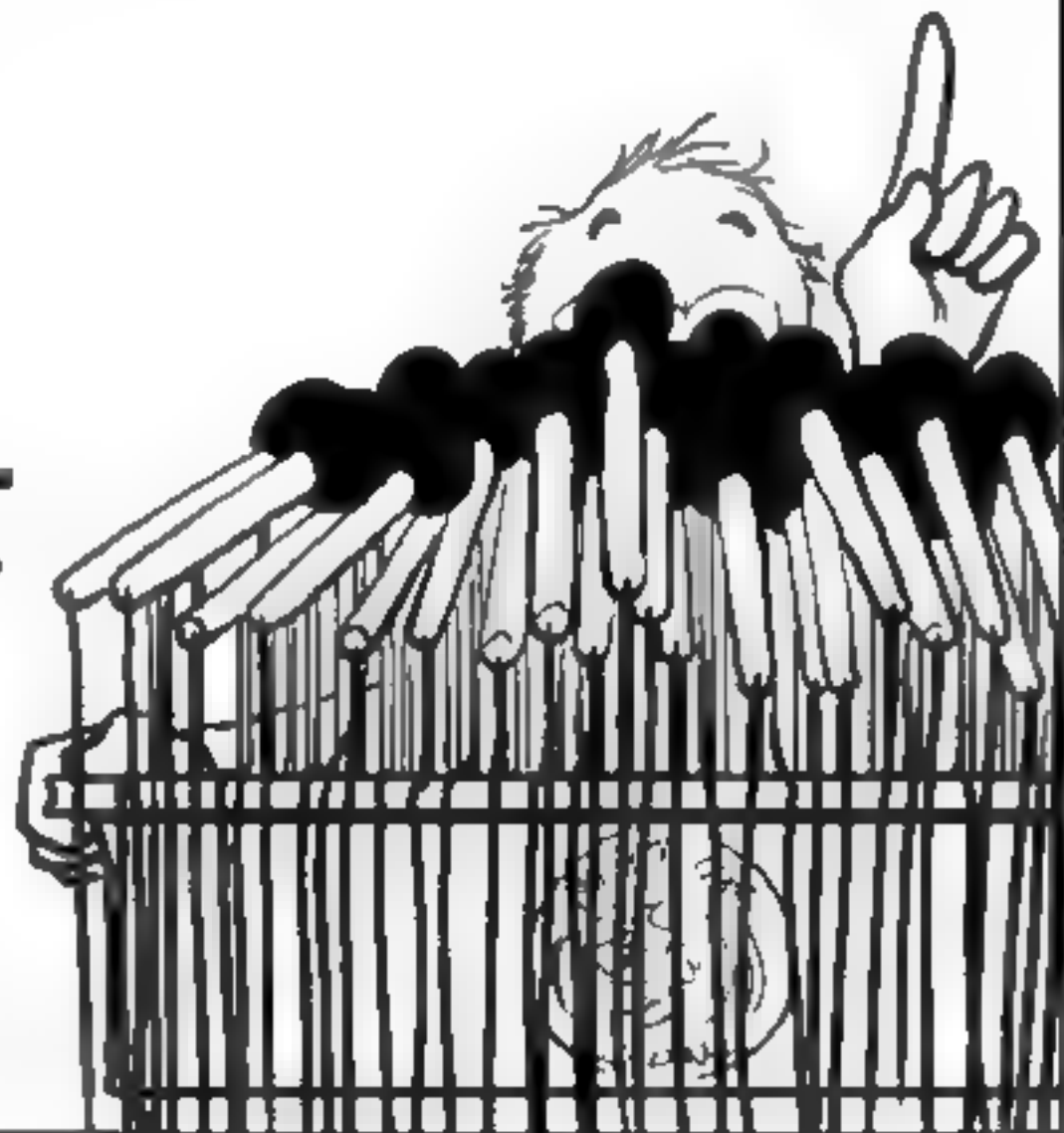
## LIBRA

(SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22)

LOOK FOR CHANGE IN THE EARLIER PART OF THE PERIOD, OR, LACKING THAT, IN THE LATER, MARKED BY SHAKY STABILITY EITHER WAY. RECOGNITION AND ROMANCE WILL LINGER SIGNIFICANTLY, IF NOT FOR YOU, FOR OTHERS. SEIZE THE DAY. DON'T LET THE DUST GATHER, THE GRASS GROW, THE PAINT DRY, THE HOURGLASS RUN OUT. BLUE SKIES IN THE MORNING... BATTEN DOWN THE HATCHES...THERE'LL ALWAYS BE AN ENGLAND...SURE AS GOD MADE LI'L GREEN APPLES. YOU ARE ABOUT TO DIE FROM TOXIC LEVELS OF AMBIGUITY AND CLICHÉS.



# THE DAILY THORAX HOROSCOPE



Becker

## SCORPIO (OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21)

A CANDIDATE FOR HIGH PUBLIC OFFICE WILL STEP BEFORE THE CAMERAS AND STATE THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS NOTHING WITHOUT YOU THE PEOPLE — YOUR LABOR, YOUR WEALTH, YOUR HEALTHY CHILDREN; YOUR LABOR TO FIGHT ITS FECKLESSNESS, YOUR WEALTH TO FIGHT ITS PROFLIGACY, YOUR HEALTHY CHILDREN TO FIGHT ITS WARS. AND TO REWARD HIM FOR SPEAKING THIS TRUTH, YOU WILL CAST YOUR VOTE FOR THE CANDIDATE WHO COULD DICE UP PLATITUDES INTO LOVELY SOUND BITES. THEY'RE SO LESS FILLING.





# THE DAILY THORAX HOROSCOPE

*Brooks*

## SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21)

YOU WILL BE ADVISED TO SPEAK ONLY THROUGH YOUR ATTORNEY AND NEVER WITHOUT BENEFIT OF COUNSEL, THAT A MAN WHO REPRESENTS HIMSELF HAS A FOOL FOR A LAWYER. WHEN YOU SEE COUNSEL'S BILL, THE REASON FOR THIS ADVICE WILL BECOME ENTIRELY CLEAR. JUST PAY THE FINE FOR THE PARKING TICKET AND REMEMBER, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT.  
SHUT UP.

# THE DAILY THORAX HOROSCOPE



*Brooke*

**CAPRICORN**  
(DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 19)

IN ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION YOU'VE BEEN ASKING YOURSELF: YOU WILL! DECISIVELY. YOU VERY LIKELY WILL. I MEAN, THERE'S EVERY REASON TO THINK YOU WILL. WEIGHING THIS WITH THAT, ONE THING WITH ANOTHER, THE BAD WITH THE GOOD, CONSIDERING ALL THE ALTERNATIVES AND VARIABLES, YOU PROBABLY WILL. YOU VERY CERTAINLY, IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, POSSIBLY, IN THE FULLNESS OF TIME, ALL THINGS BEING EQUAL, IF NOTHING HAPPENS CONTRARY TO PREDICTION....WILL. ABSOLUTELY.

OR POSSIBLY NOT.

# THE DAILY THORAX HOROSCOPE



## AQUARIUS (JANUARY 20-FEBRUARY 18)

YOU MAY HAVE BEEN THANKING YOUR  
LUCKY STARS THAT YOU DIDN'T END UP  
WITH YESTERDAY'S HOROSCOPE.  
AND WHO CAN BLAME YOU?  
THERE'S THE PITY OF IT. DUE TO A NEW,  
MANDATORY RECYCLING PROGRAM,  
EVERYTHING THAT APPEARED YESTERDAY  
APPLIES TO YOU TODAY.

EXCEPT FOR THE FERRET.  
YOUR TREATMENT WILL BE PAINFUL.

Brooke



# THE DAILY THORAX HOROSCOPE

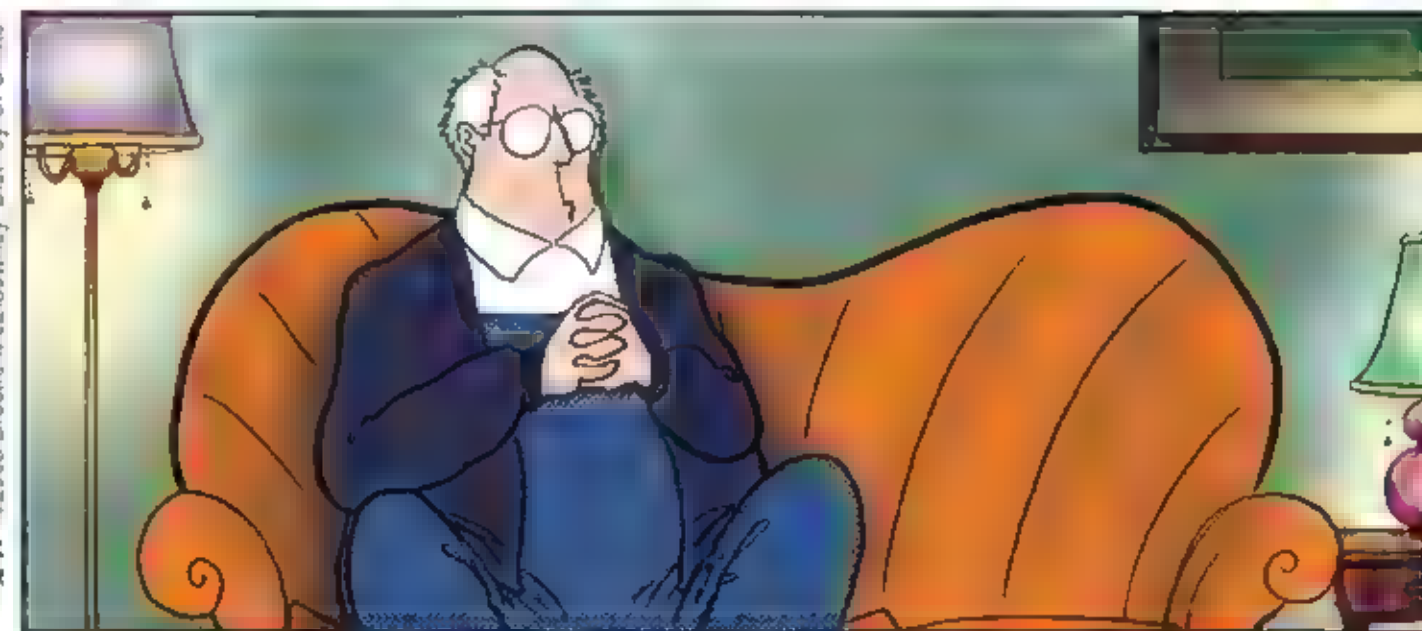
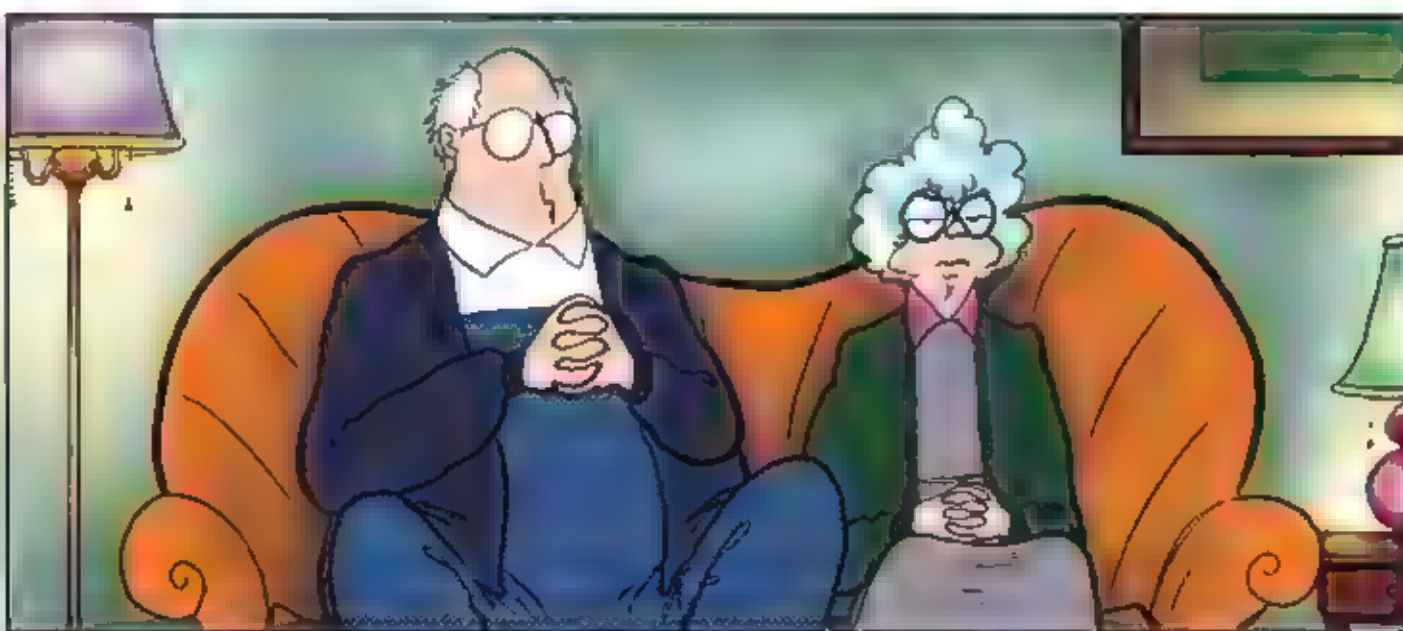
## PISCES

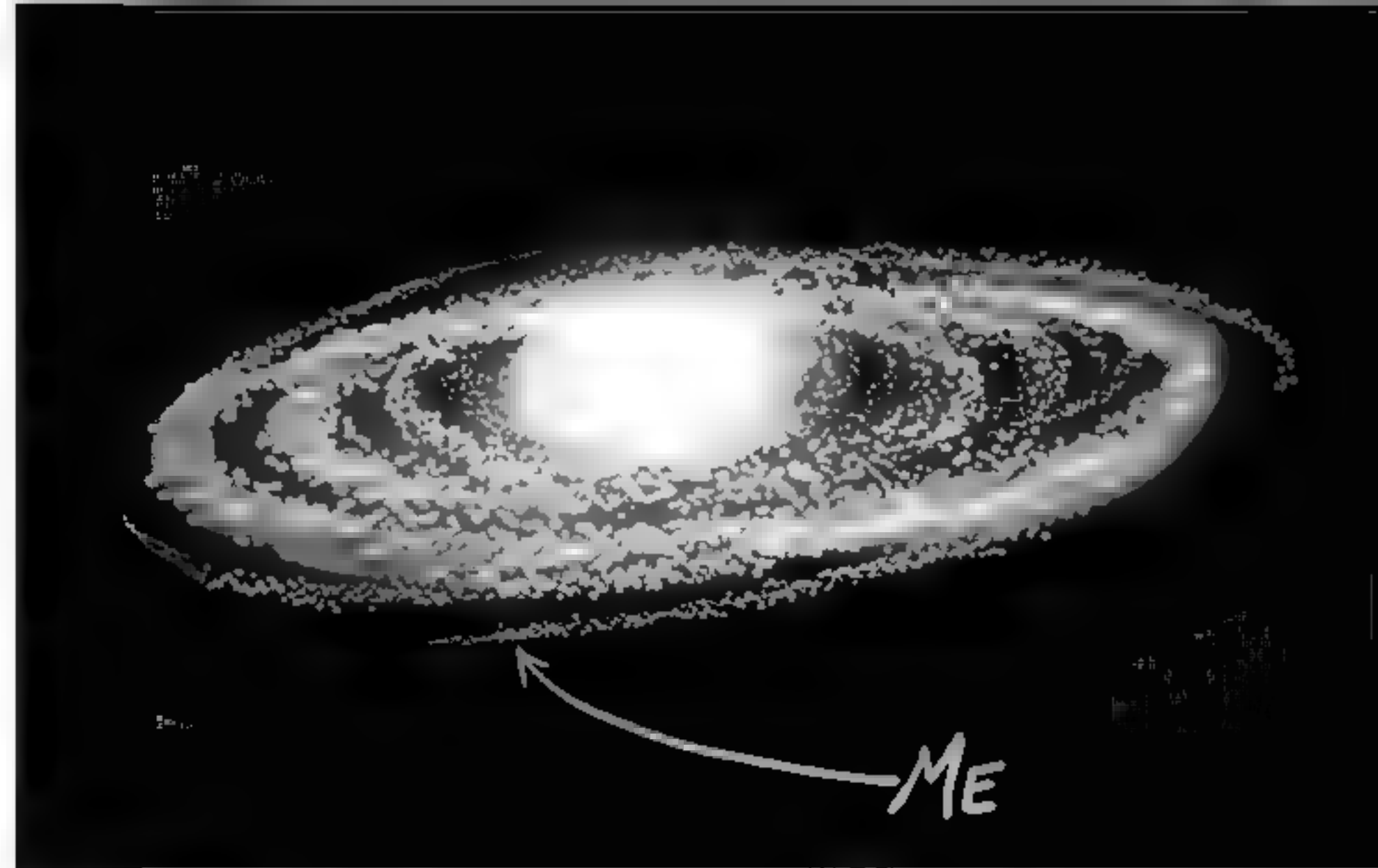
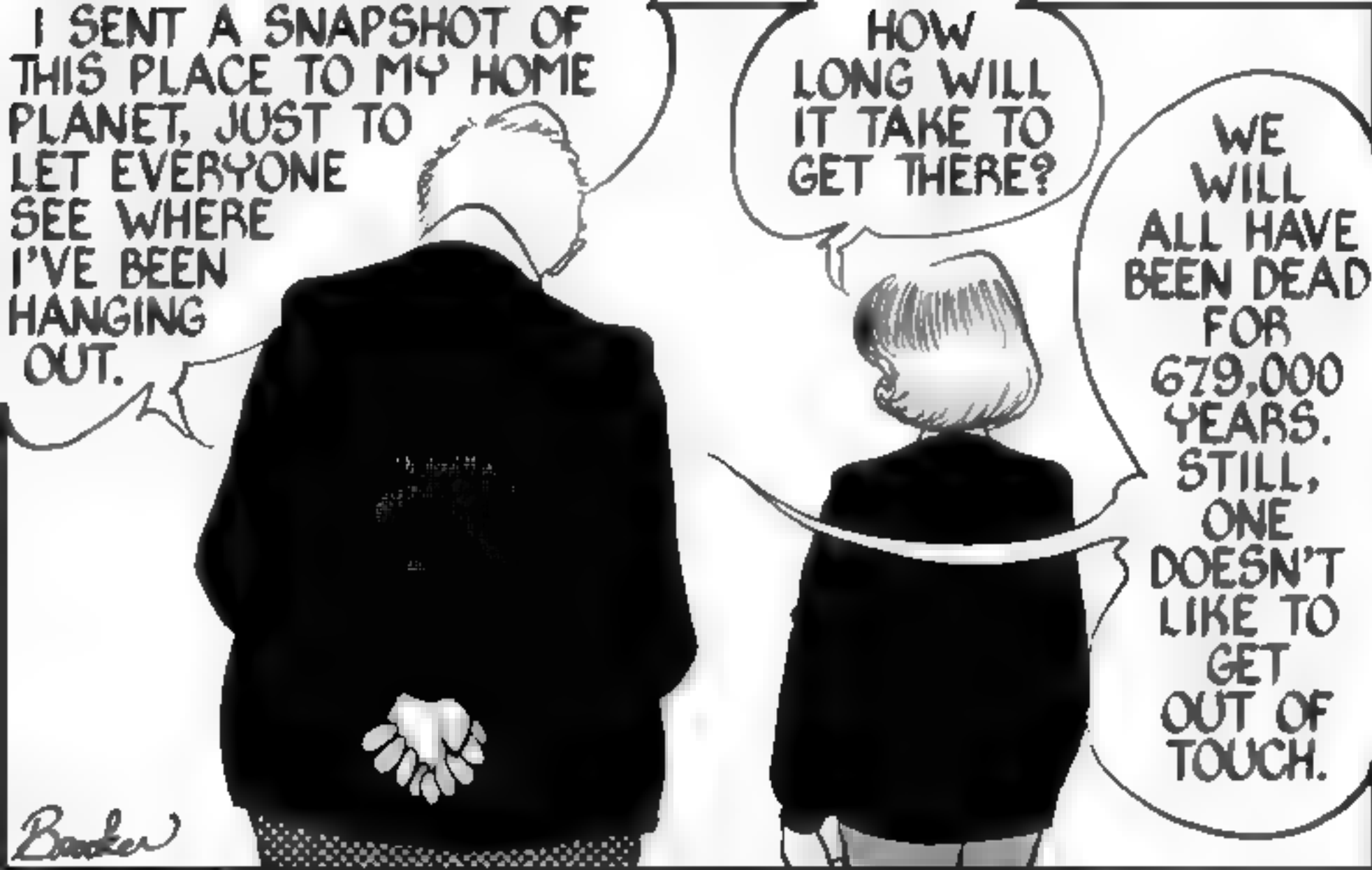
(FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 20)

YOU WILL EXERT ENORMOUS PERSONAL  
MAGNETISM ON THE PEOPLE ALL AROUND YOU,  
WHO WILL INUNDATE YOU WITH PRAISE  
AND APPLAUSE, SURRENDERING TO THE  
UNCONQUERABLE URGE TO TOUCH YOUR  
BODY AND COLLECT SAMPLES OF SWEAT.  
MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITE SEX WILL  
THROW THEMSELVES AT YOUR FEET,  
IMPORTUNING YOU TO TEAR OFF YOUR....

...OH. WAIT A SECOND.  
THAT'S NOT YOUR HOROSCOPE.









I'M ENTERING THE LEXICON  
AT 2:30, BUTTERNUT.  
CAN I PUSH BACK OUR  
DATE TO 3:15?



WAS THAT THORAX  
ON THE PHONE?  
WHAT DID HE WANT?



WHEN SHE SILENTLY OPENS  
HER MOUTH AND CLOSES IT  
AGAIN, JUST KEEP  
MOVING.







A LOCUTIONARY  
FIELD GUIDE  
TO EARTH

PUBLIC EDUCATION:



THE  
BUREAUCRATIC  
PROCESS OF  
REPLACING AN  
EMPTY MIND  
WITH A  
CLOSED ONE.



*Brooke*

Brooke

A LOCUTIONARY  
FIELD GUIDE  
TO EARTH

LAUGHTER:  
NOUN.

IN THE EYES  
OF AUTHORITY,  
THE WORST,  
MOST VIOLENT,  
MOST  
DESTRUCTIVE  
WEAPON ON  
EARTH.

**VOTING  
BOOTHS:**



**STRAIGHT  
FACES  
REQUIRED**



~

~

HALLMARKS  
OF FELINITY:  
POINT OF VIEW

~

A HAIR

~

A HAIR

~

A HAIR

~

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A HAIR

~

MONSTROUS,  
HORRIFIC,  
CRAZED DRAGON  
...ATTACKED  
SUDDENLY  
FROM AMBUSH...  
VIOLENTLY  
SUBDUED



Brooke

A HAIR

~



IT'S AN ODD THING,  
BUT EDDA TOLD ME AWHILE  
BACK THAT NOBODY EVER  
SAYS ANYTHING DIRTY  
TO HER.



SAY HELLO  
FOR ME.



I HEAR NOBODY EVER USES  
DIRTY LANGUAGE WHEN  
ADDRESSING  
YOU.

OH,  
LORD...

WELL,  
I GUESS  
THAT'S  
TRUE.



Brooke



IS THAT  
PORTUGUESE?

PLEASE BE PATIENT...  
...I BEGIN WITH MY  
STRENGTHS.  
ENGLISH WILL  
COME SHORTLY.



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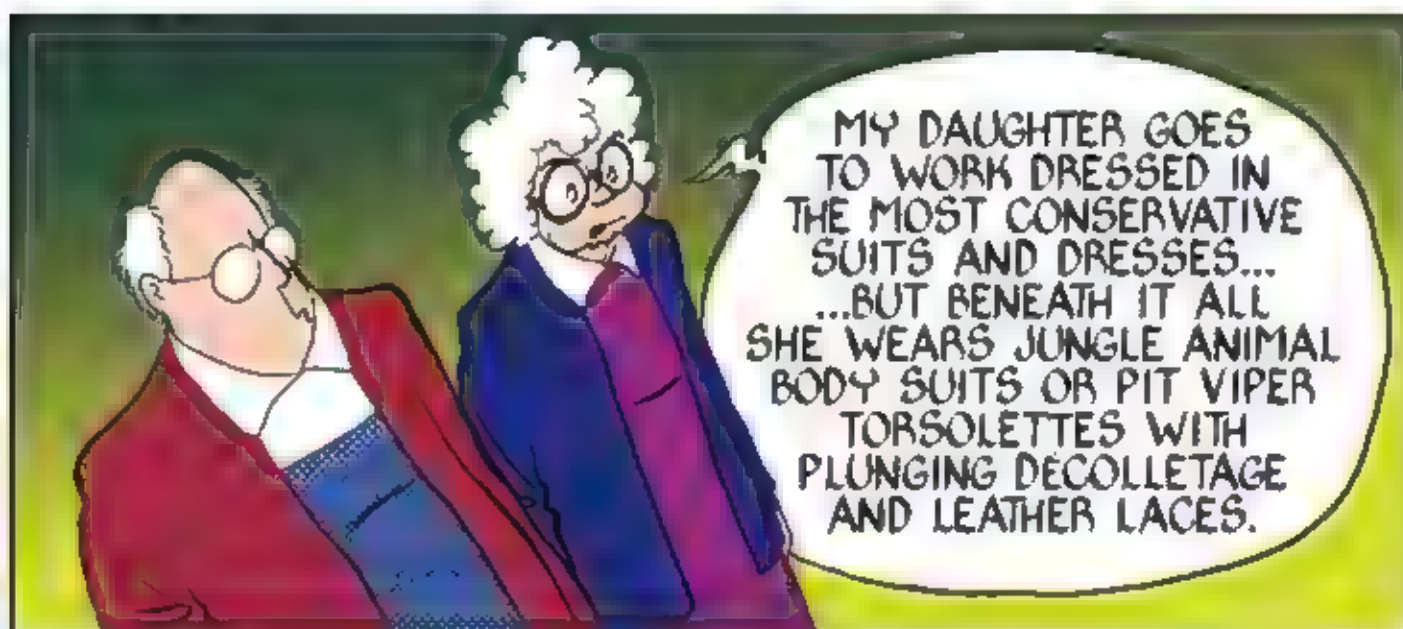




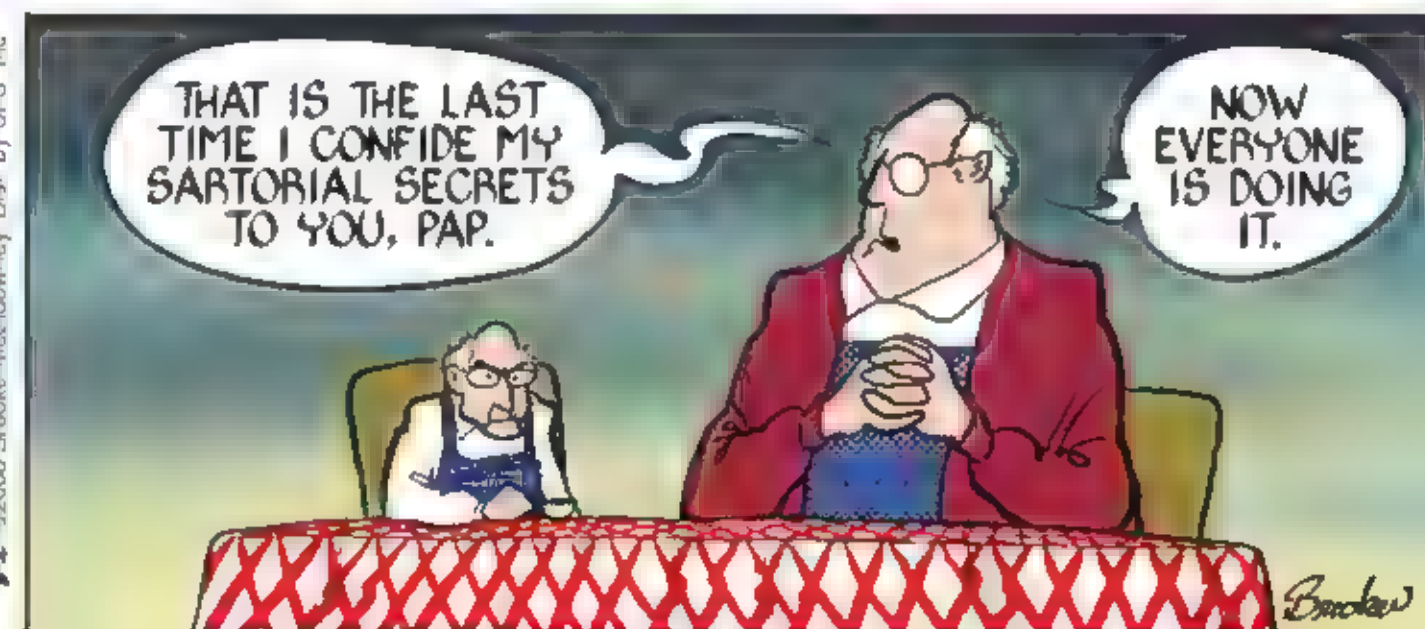








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AMOS' FIRST BIG  
RECITAL, AND ALL  
I CAN THINK IS  
HOW QUICKLY  
CHILDHOOD GOES  
BY. HE'S SO  
DIGNIFIED,  
SO MATURE.  
I LOOK AT  
HIM, AND  
BID ADIEU  
TO THE  
PLAYMATES  
WE ONCE WERE,  
THE LITTLE...



*Brooke*

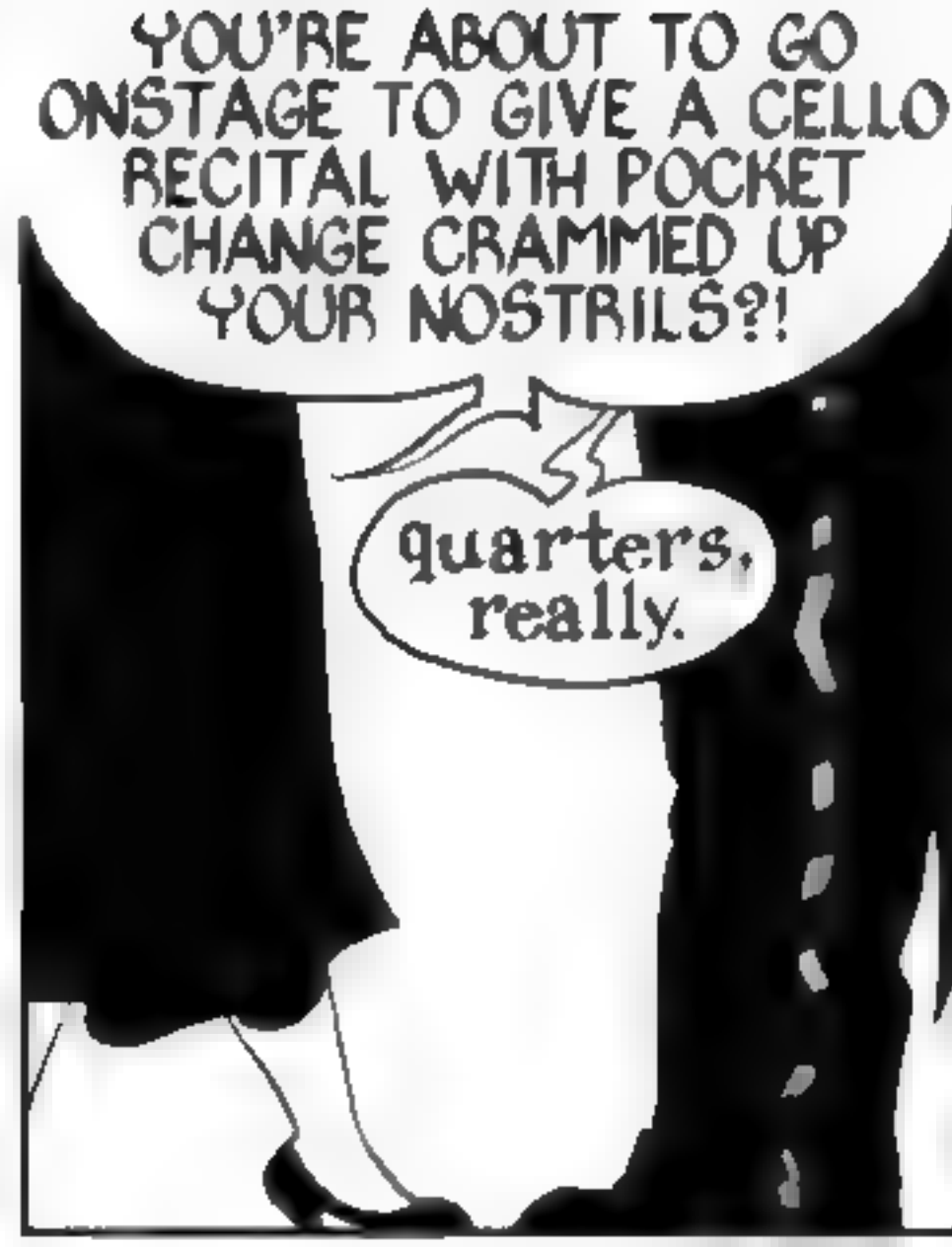
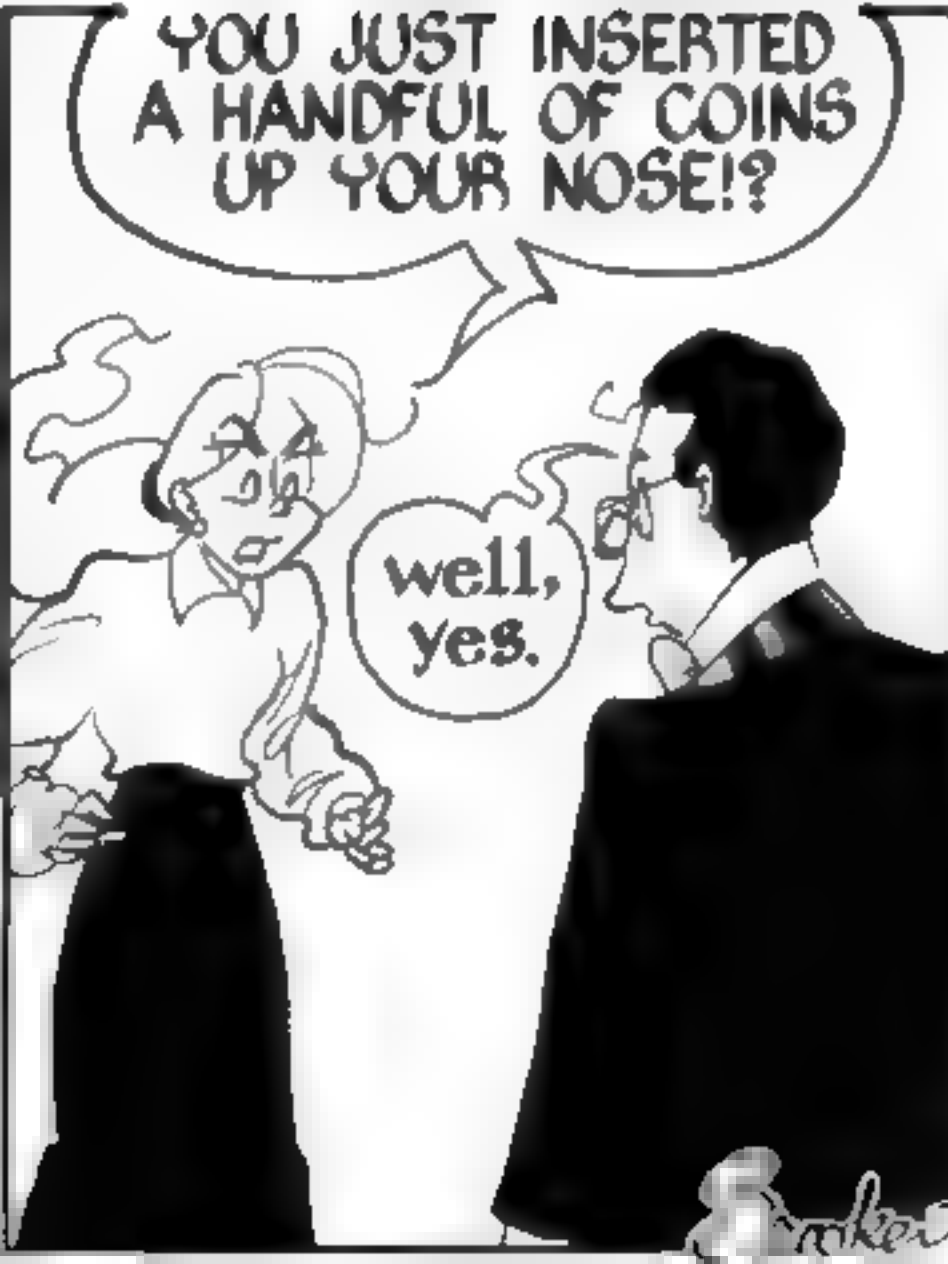
HEY, EDDA, GUESS  
HOW MANY QUARTERS  
I HAVE UP MY  
NOSE!

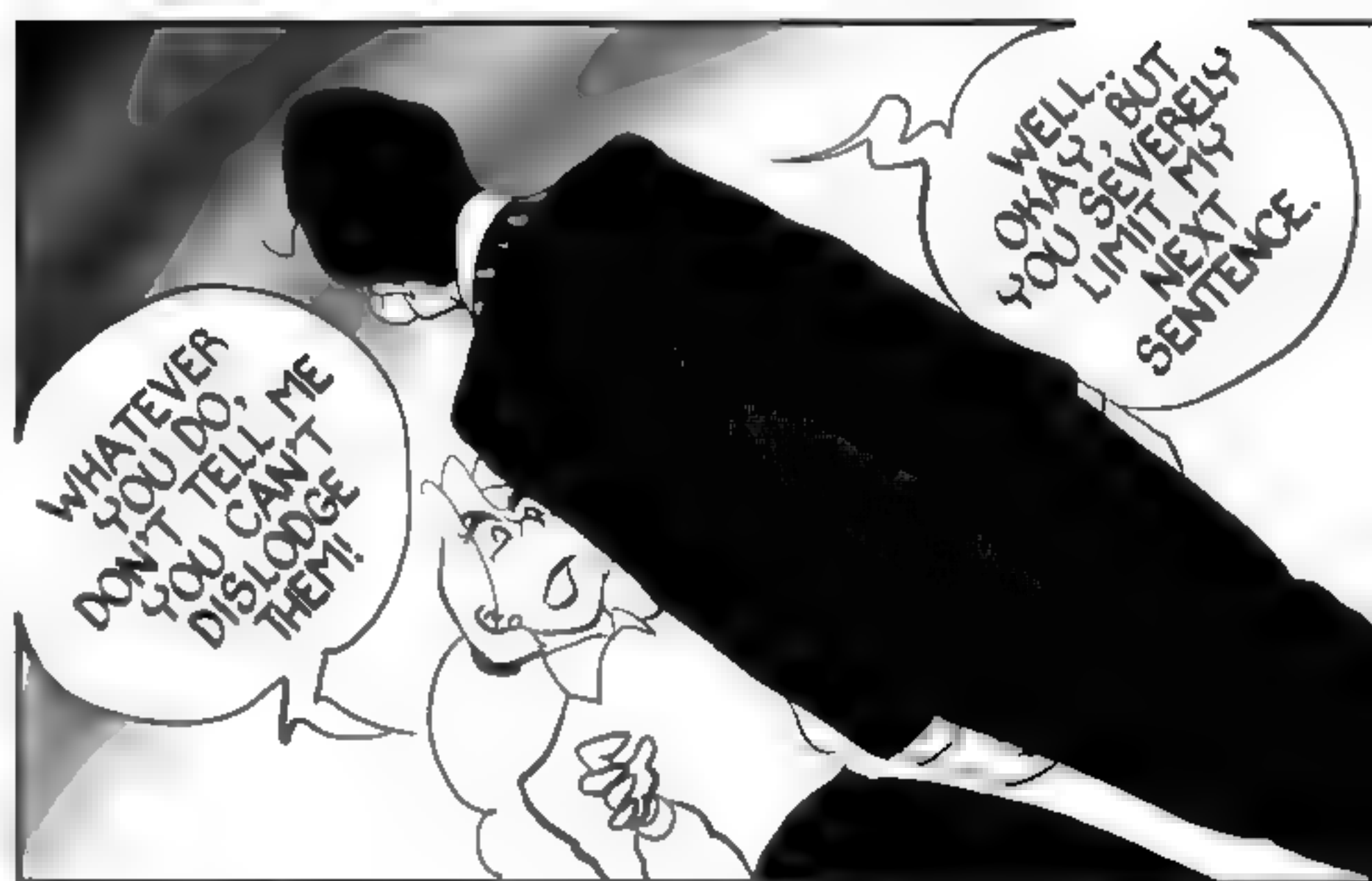


SUDDENLY I FEEL  
SO YOUNG.





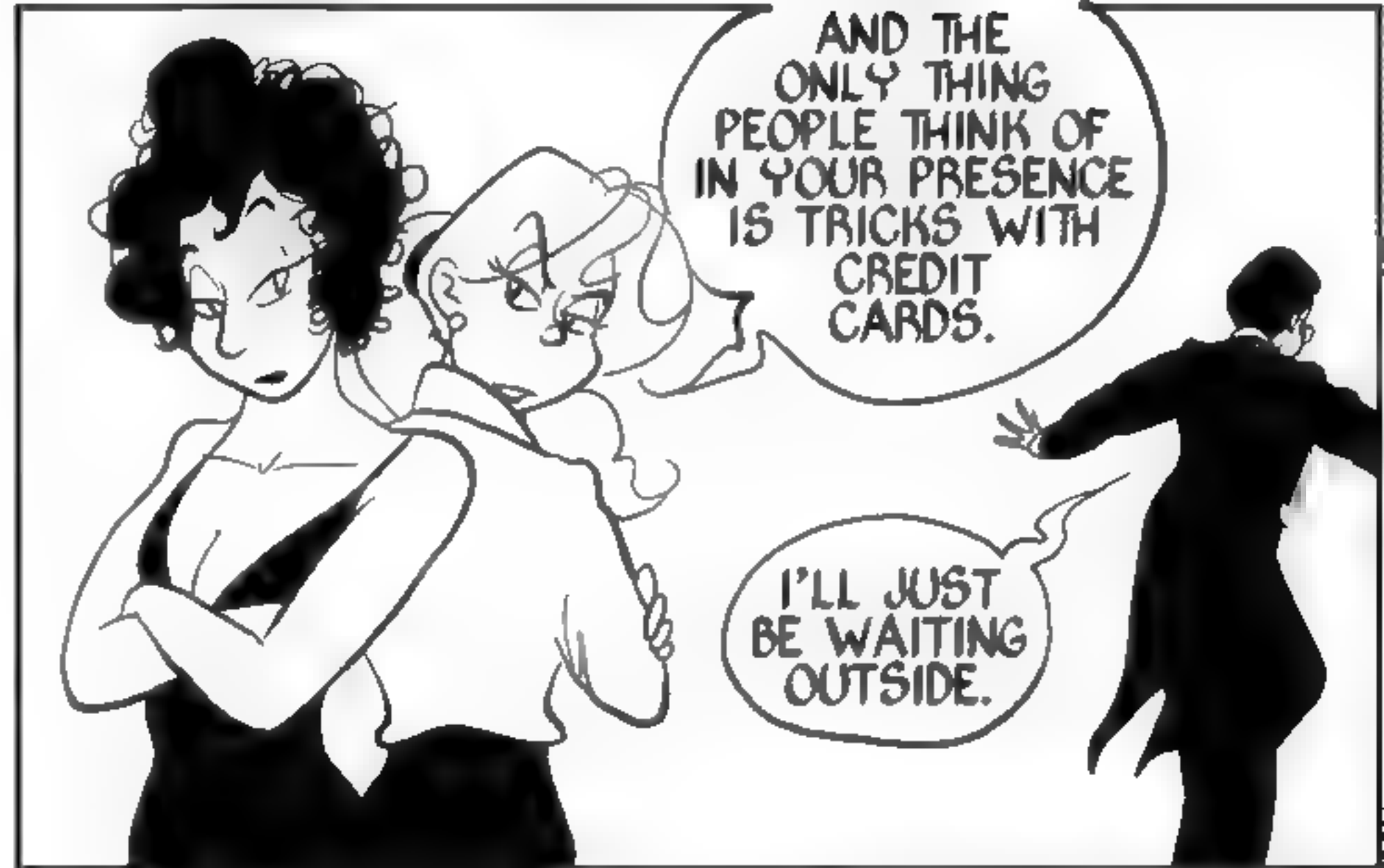












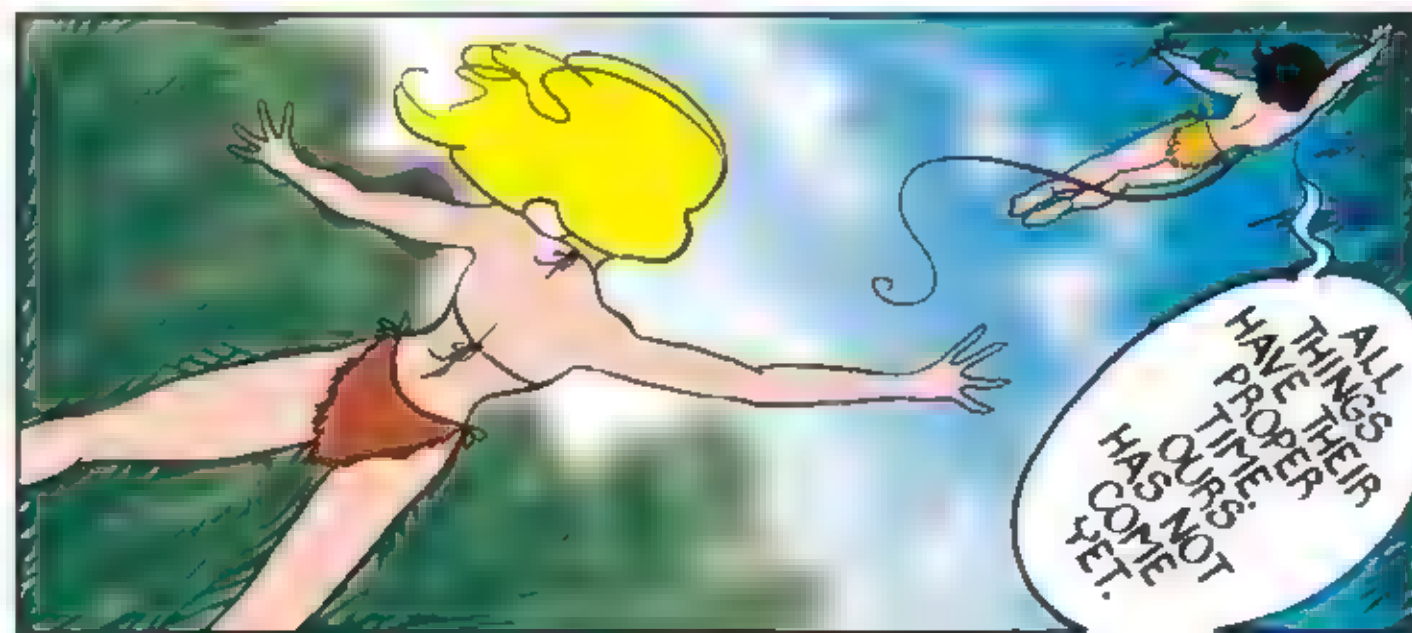
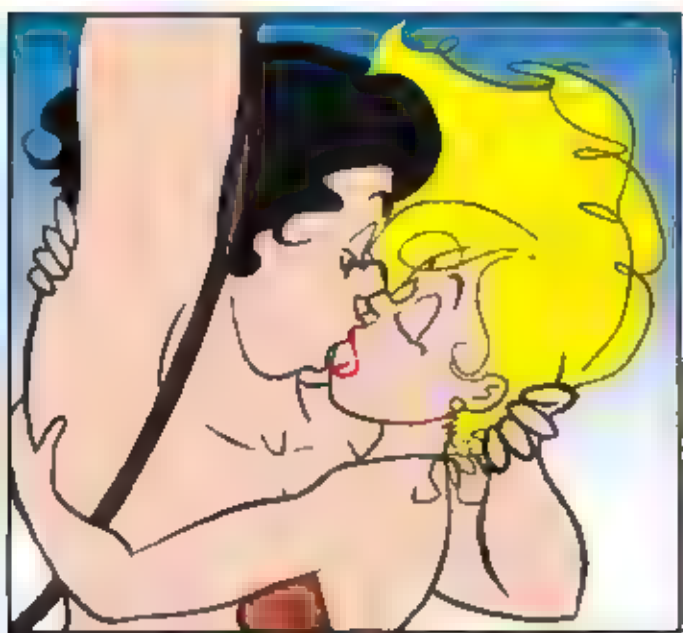
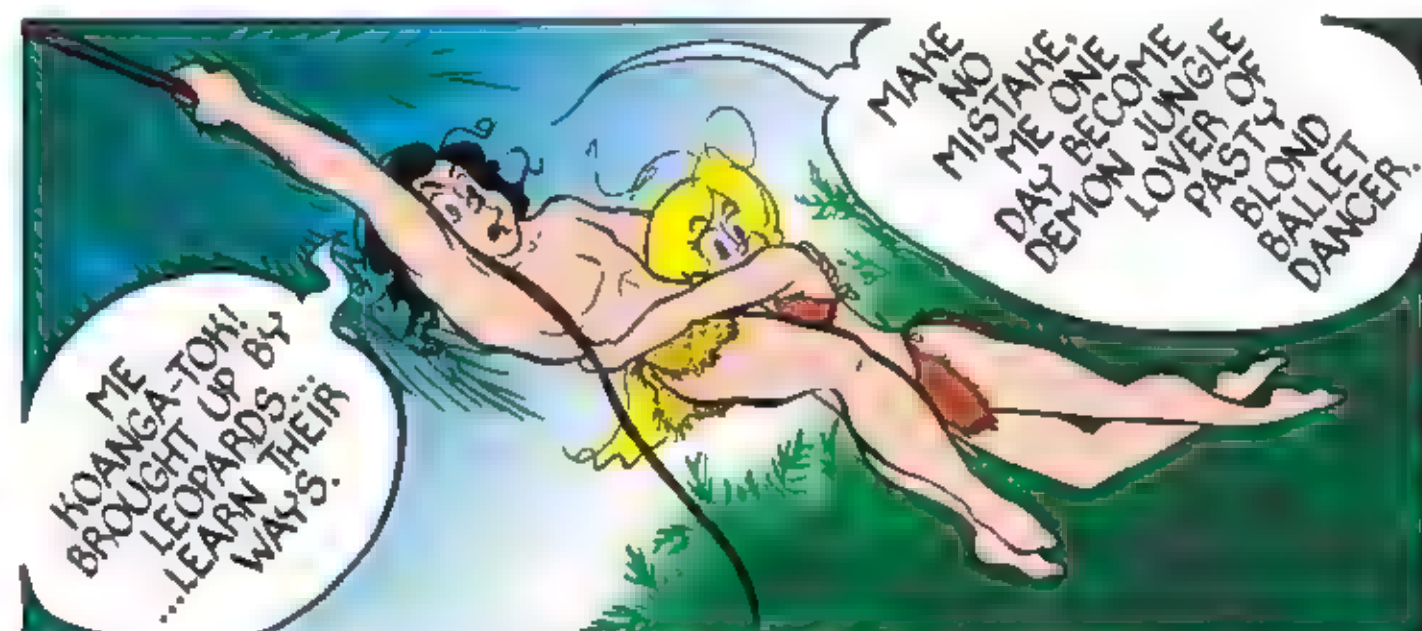
# 9 CHICKWEED LANE



SOMETIMES IT'S NICE JUST  
TO SIT HERE AND CUDDLE WITH  
MY DEMON JUNGLE LOVER.



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I'M ABOUT TO GO ONSTAGE  
TO PLAY BRAHMS,  
BEETHOVEN, FRANCK  
AND MOZART WITH  
A CELLIST WHOSE  
NOSE IS PACKED  
WITH MONEY.



*Brooke*



IT ISN'T JUST  
MONEY...  
...THE POINT OF  
THE EXERCISE  
LIES IN GUESSING  
THE SUM TO THE  
NEAREST...



DON'T LOOK  
AT ME.



I DO LOOK  
AT YOU.



WE'LL  
KNOCK IT  
OFF.

DROP  
DEAD.

...QUARTER.



BREAD  
STICK.

PRIG.

CAMP  
FOLLOWER.

TART.











I'M SPEAKING AT THE SYM-  
POSIUM THIS AFTERNOON,  
BUT I HAVEN'T HAD TIME  
TO WRITE A SPEECH THAT  
MAKES ANY SENSE. SO I'M  
GOING TO SPEW ACADEMIC  
BALDERDASH AND EMPLOY  
A NODMEISTER.



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SOMEONE WHO NODS  
INTERMITTENTLY THROUGH-  
OUT A PRESENTATION TO  
CONVEY THE IMPRESSION  
THAT YOUR MINDLESS  
TWADDLE IS ACTUALLY  
COGENT.



THAT'S  
PREPOSTEROUS!  
WHERE ARE YOU  
GOING TO FIND  
SOMEONE  
TO DO THAT?!

Brooke



WONDERFUL SPEECH AT THE SYMPOSIUM, DR. BURBER. I'VE NEVER HEARD SUCH MEANINGLESS, ACADEMIC CLAPTRAP DELIVERED SO EFFECTIVELY.

YOU HAVE A WONDERFUL NODMEISTER.

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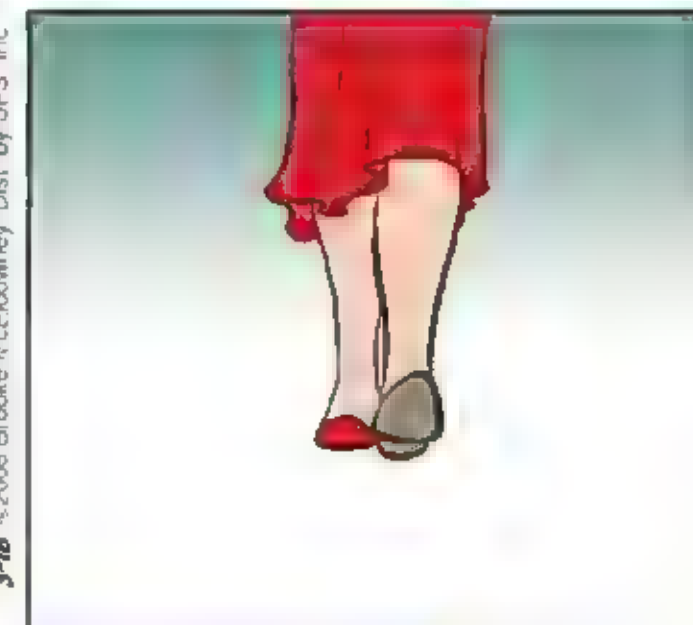
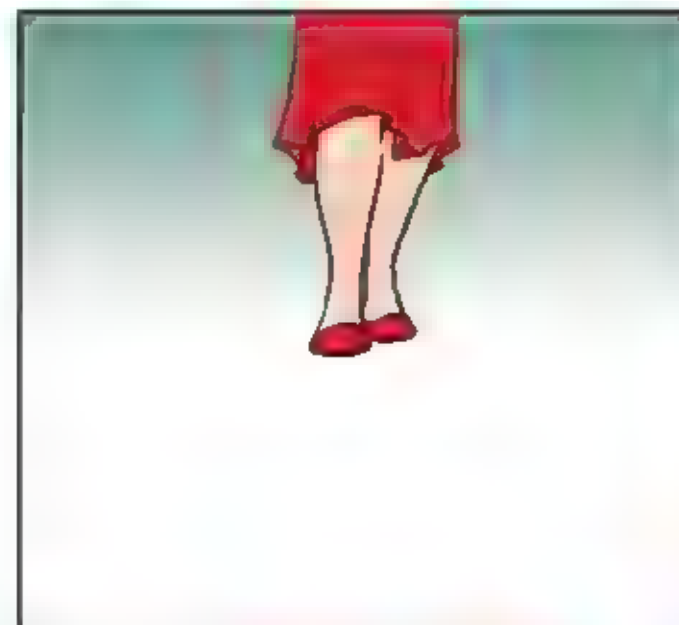
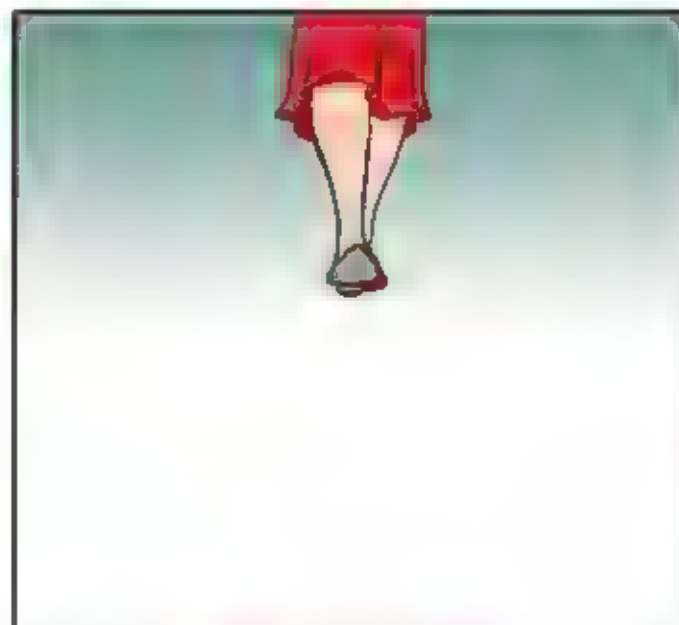
I WAS WONDERING...  
...COULD I BORROW HIM  
WEDNESDAY? I HAVE TO  
GIVE AN ADDRESS OF  
UNINTELLIGIBLE FLAPDOODLE  
ON GLOBAL ECONOMY  
IN THE 21ST  
CENTURY...

...AND  
HE'D BE  
A GODSEND.

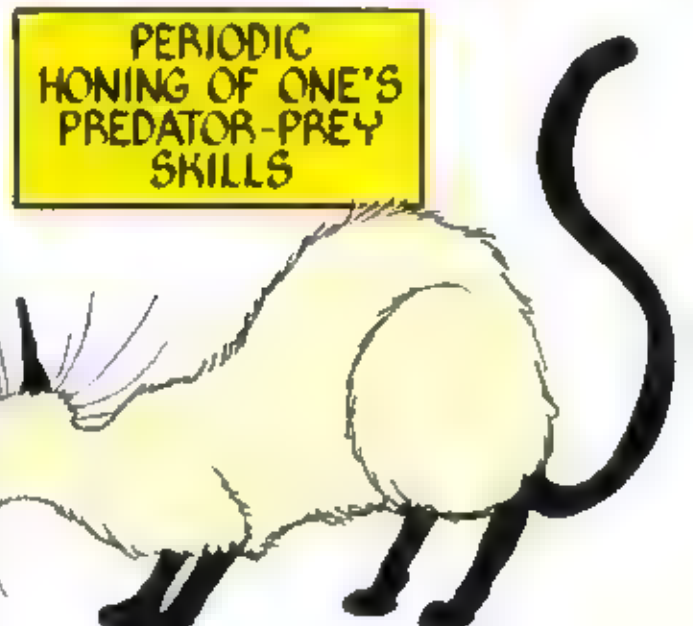
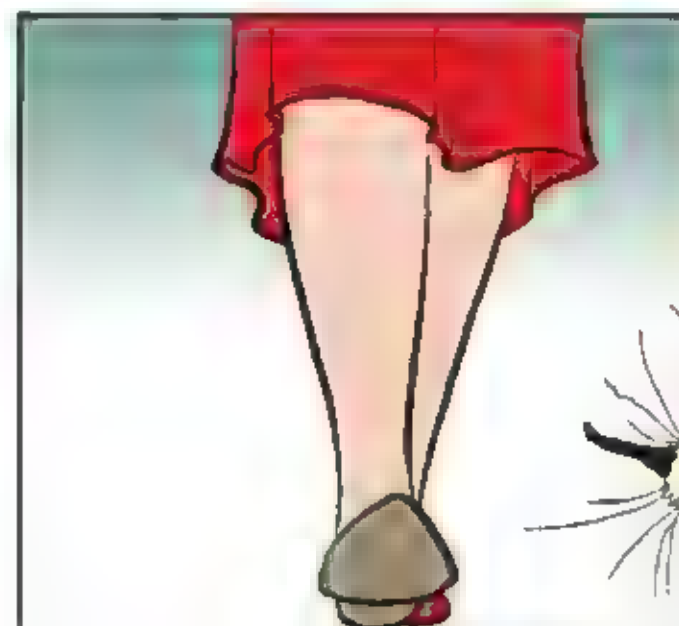
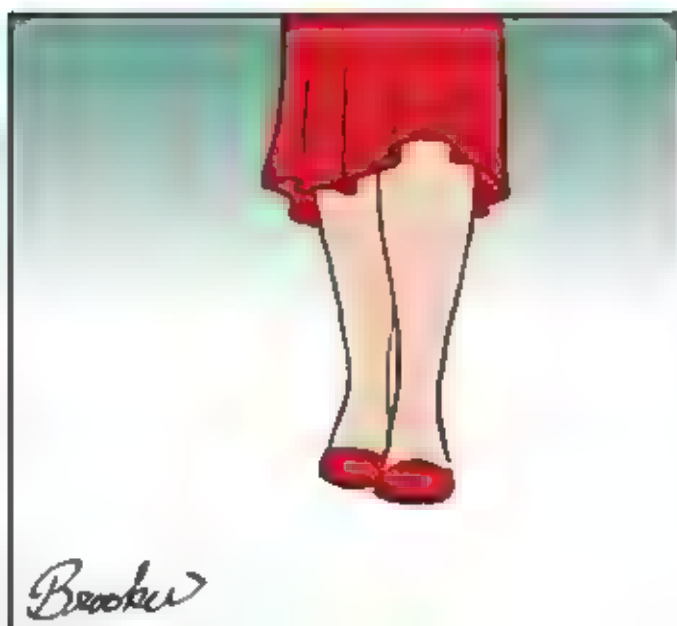
*Brooke*

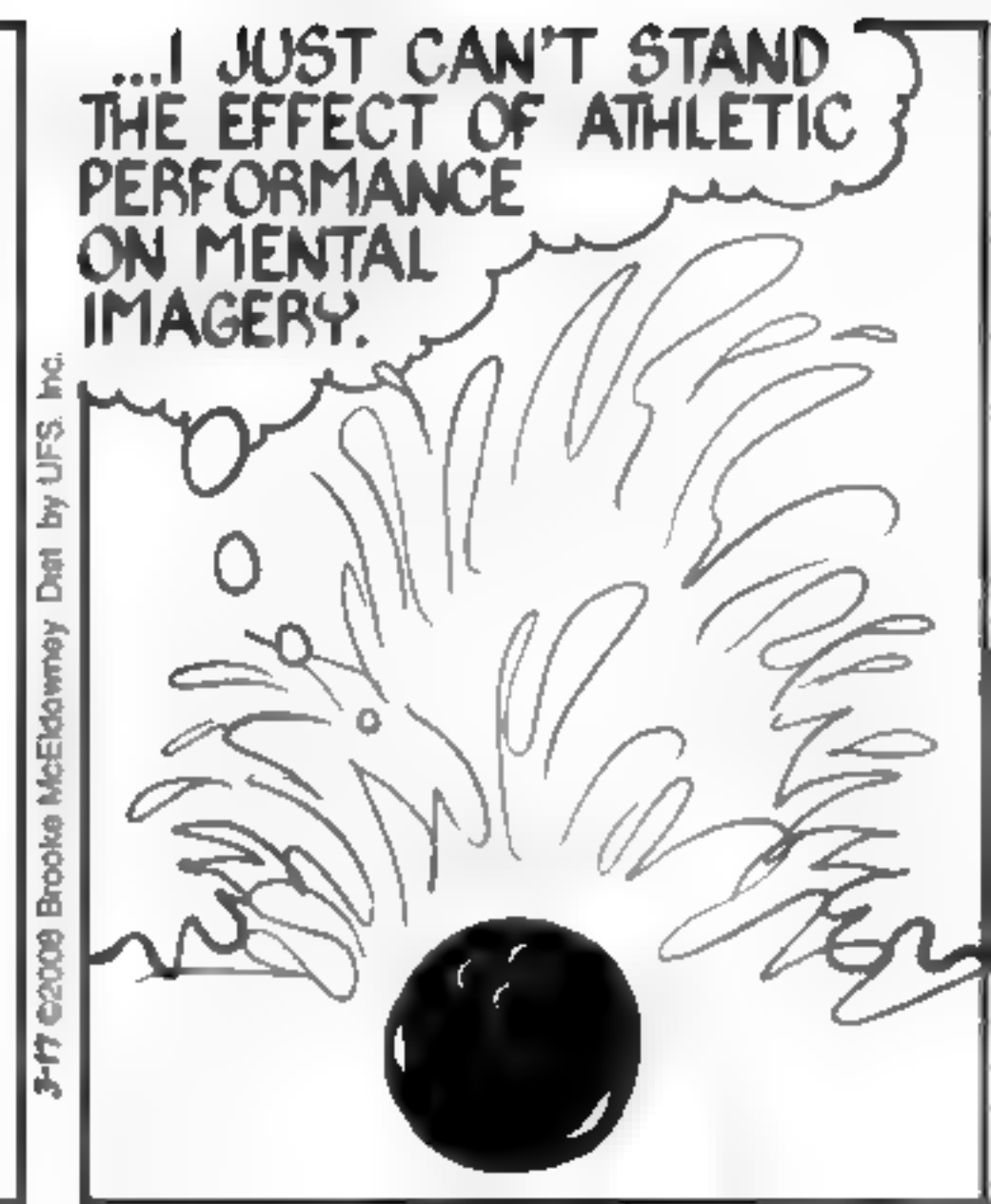
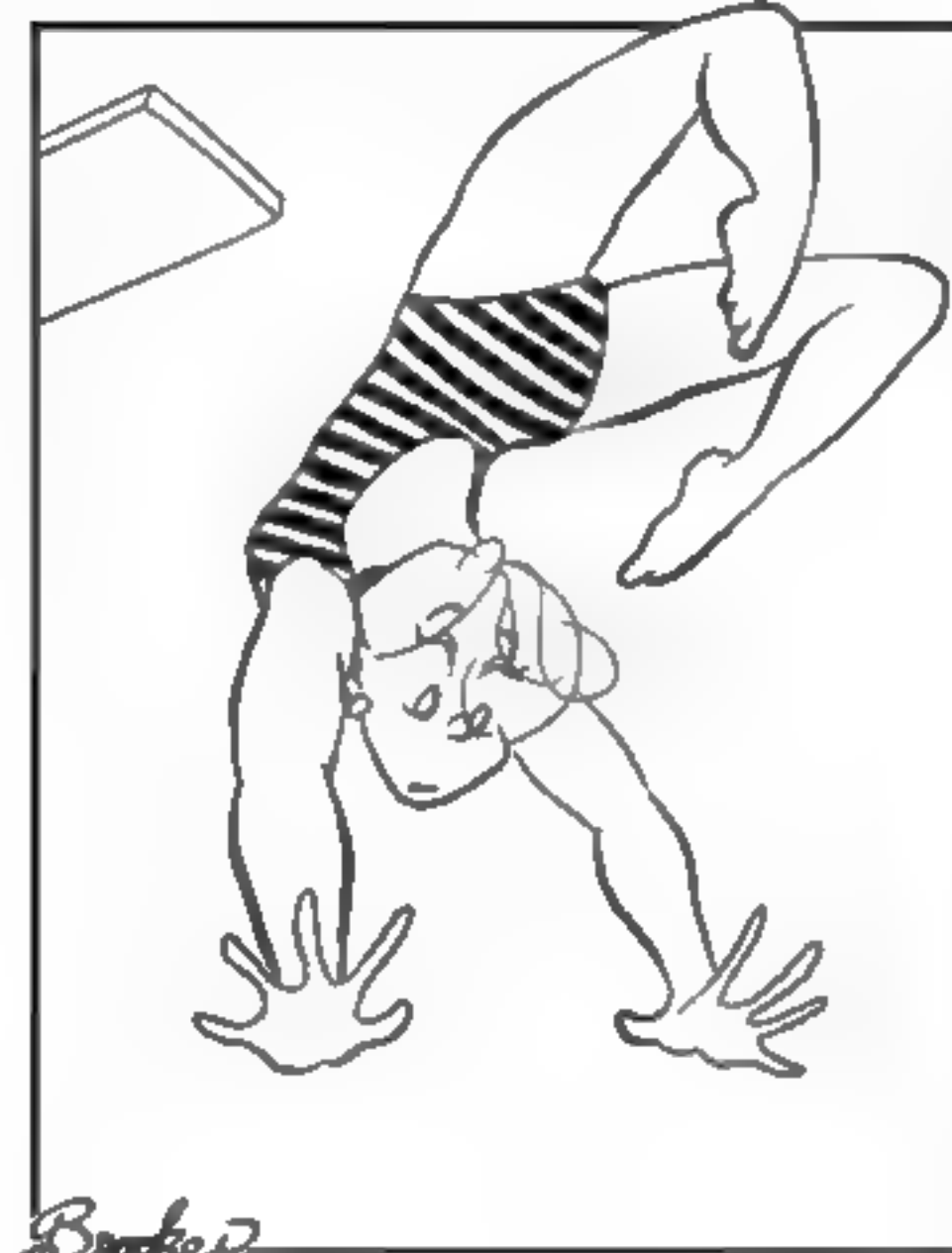
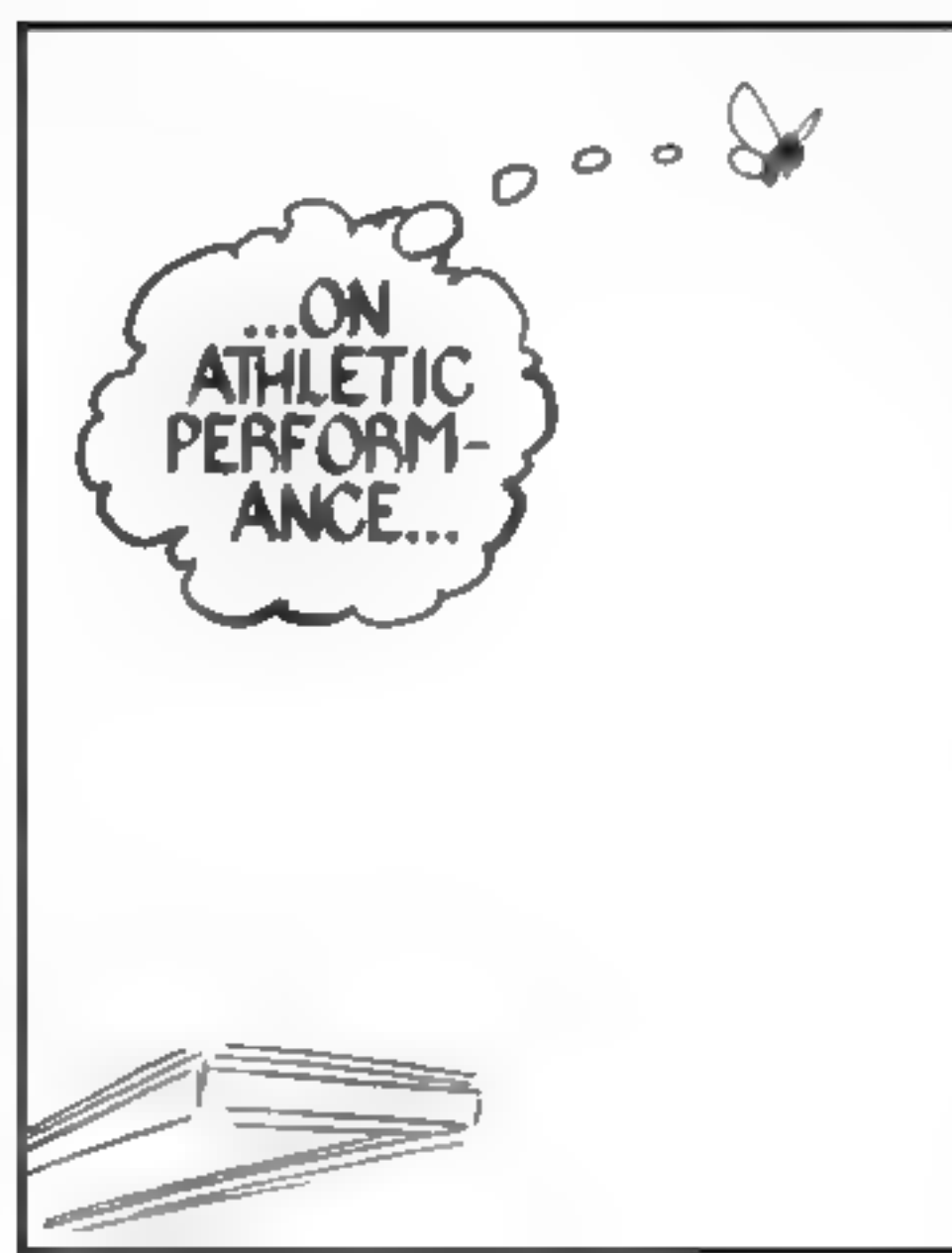
YES, I'D BE FREE TO NOD THROUGHOUT YOUR SPEECH. I CAN PROVIDE NODS OF QUIET BUT KNOWING ASSENT, OR OF SUDDEN EPIPHANIES. I CAN ALSO MIX THEM UP, IF YOU'RE NOT PARTICULAR. HOWEVER, TO MAKE ECONOMIC THEORY VIS-A-VIS GLOBAL ECONOMY IN THE 21ST CENTURY LOOK SANE, I CHARGE EXTRA. THERE'S ALWAYS A DANGER OF WHIPLASH.

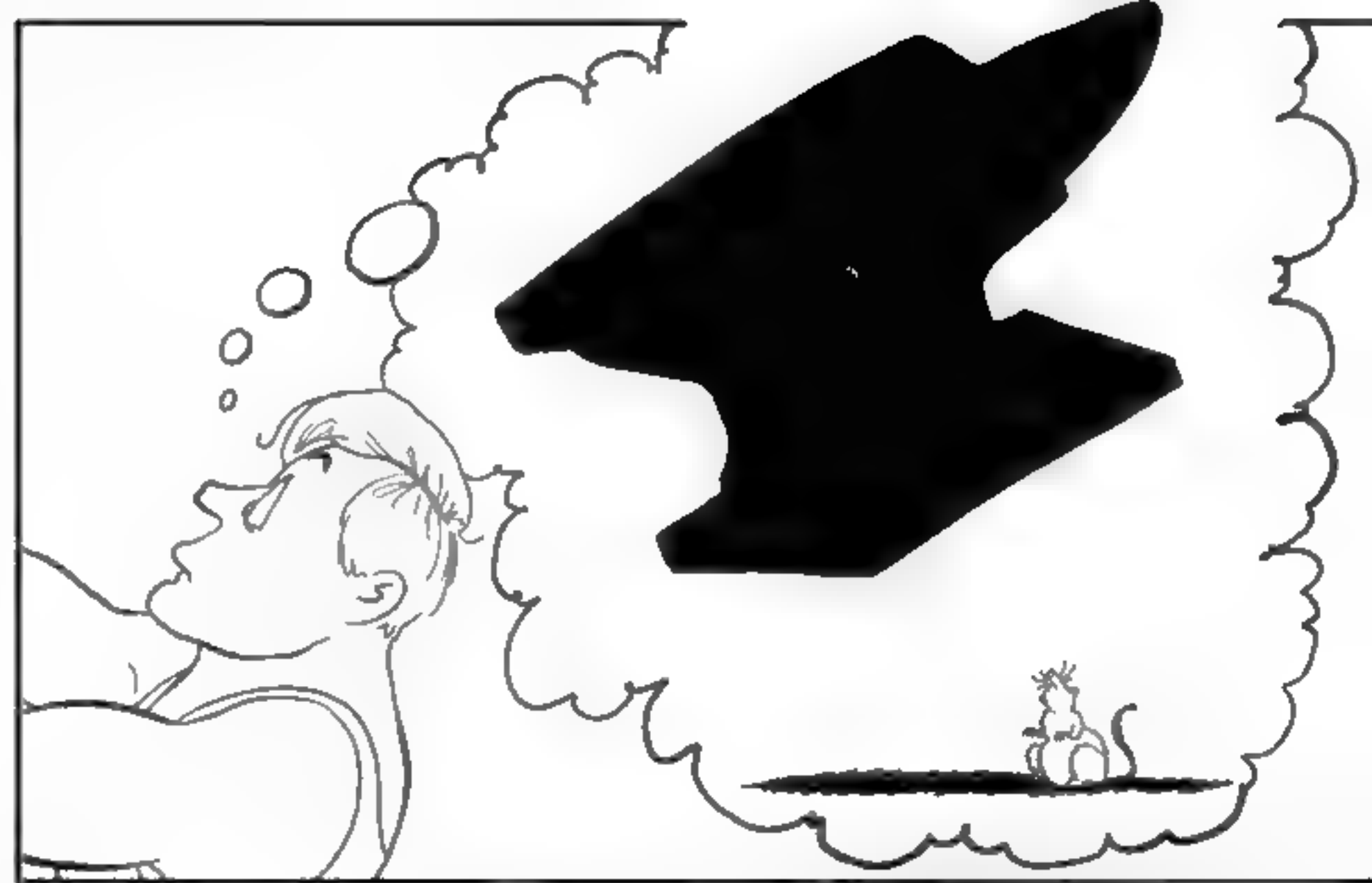




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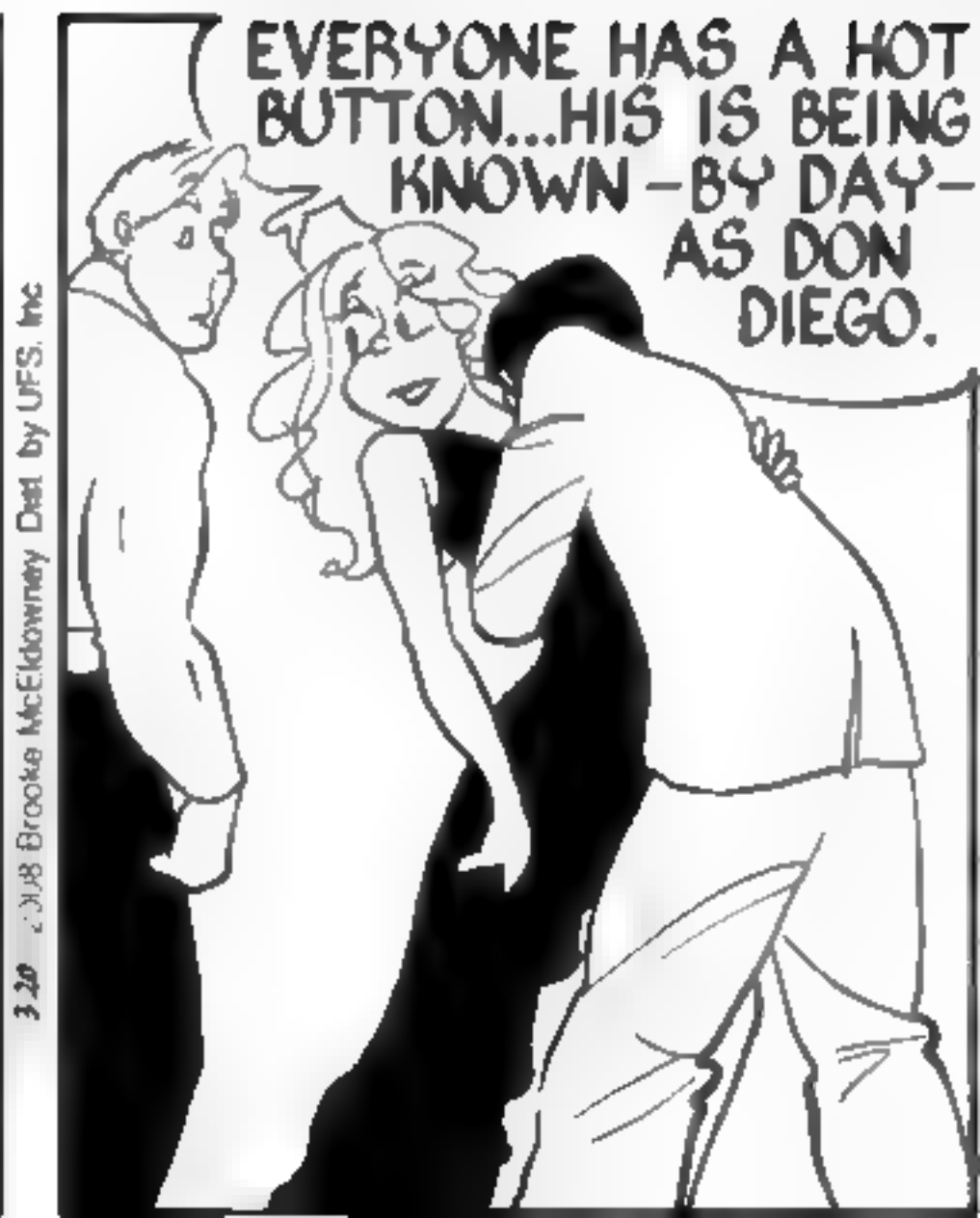


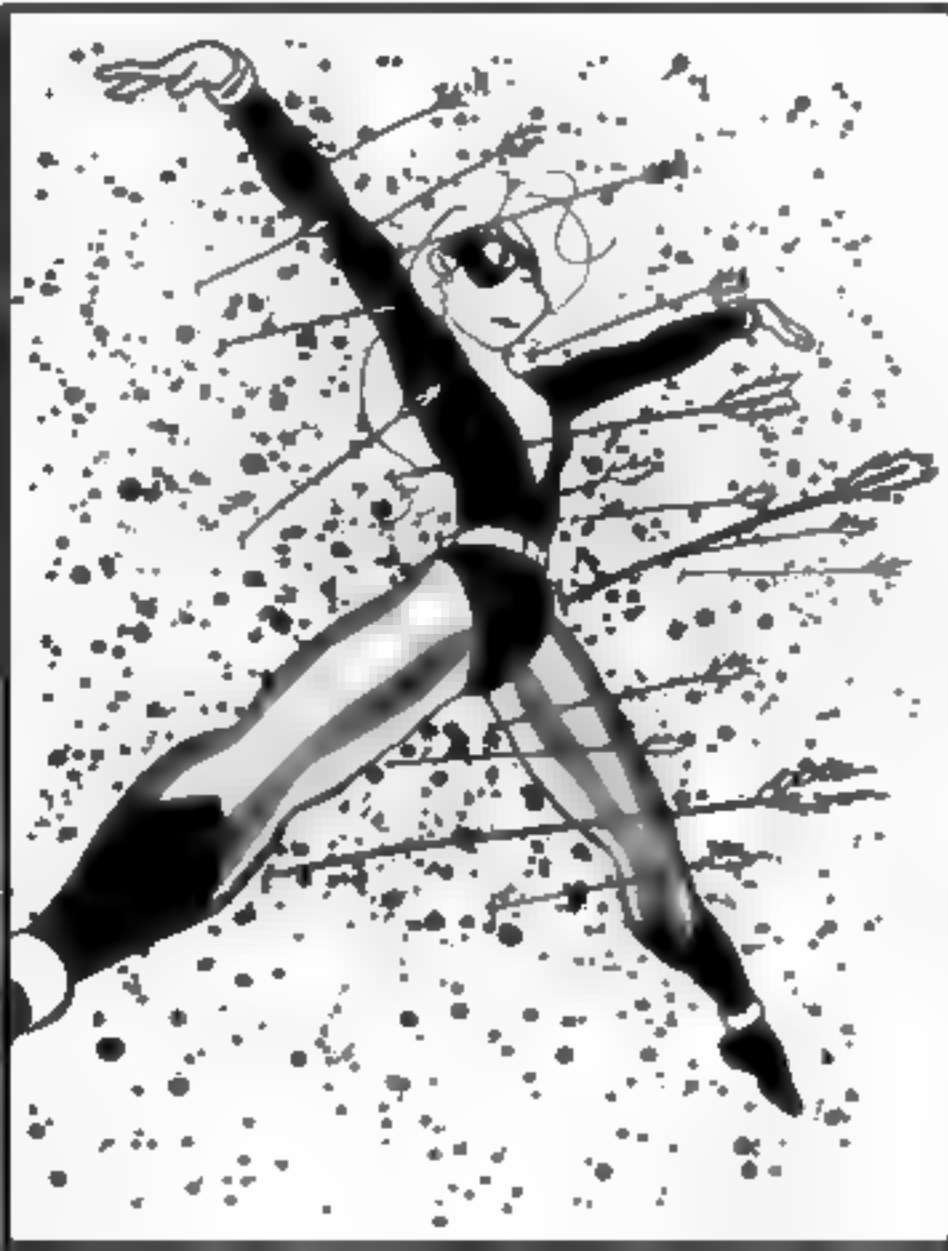






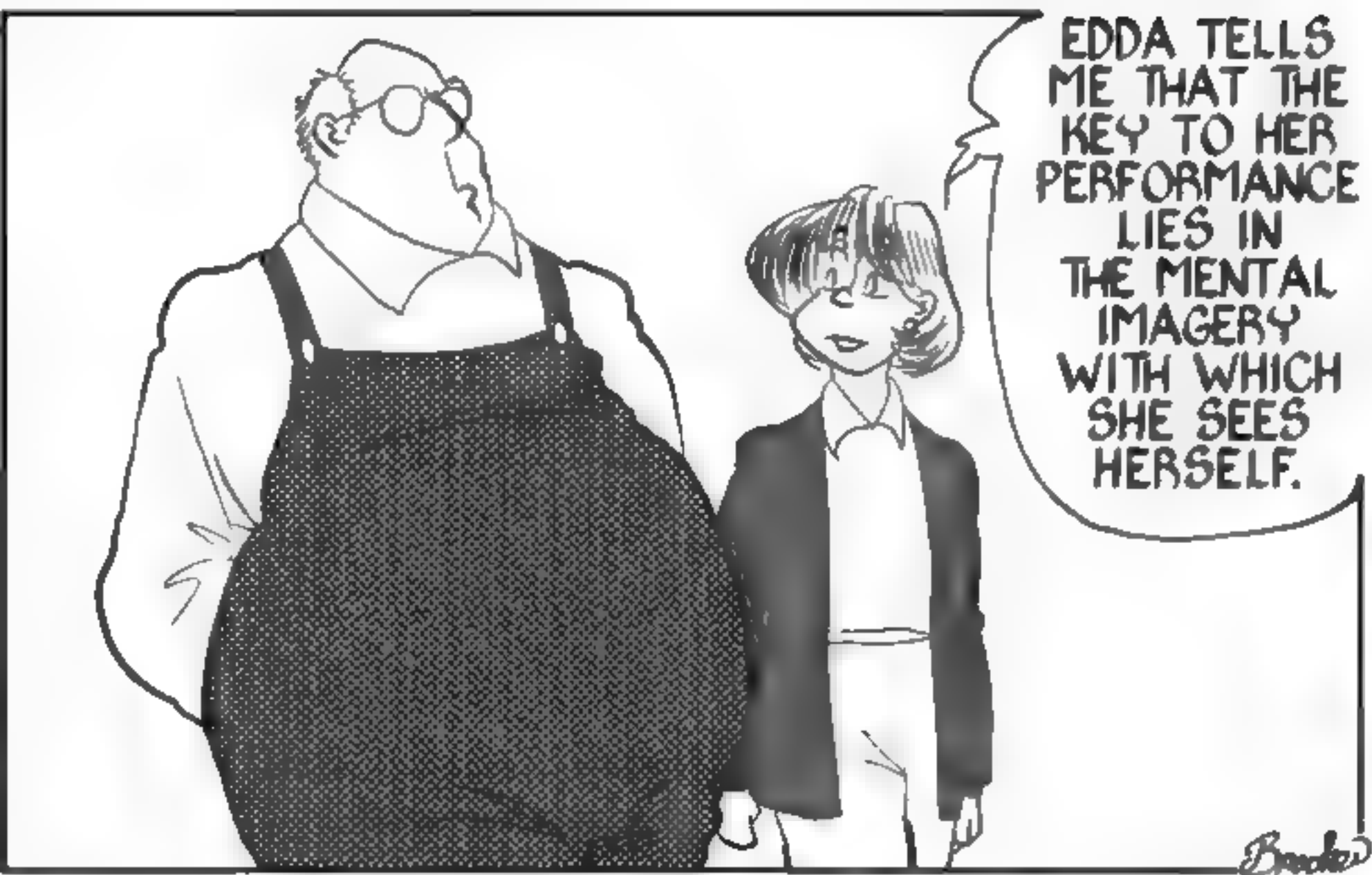




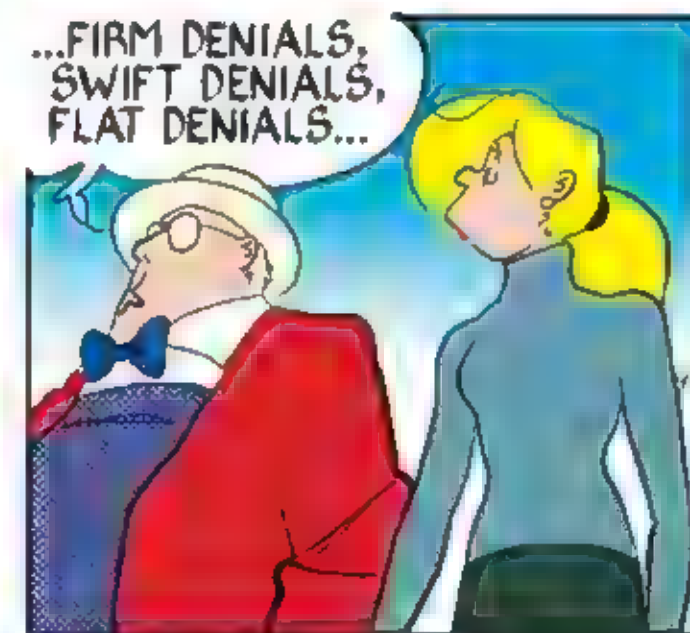
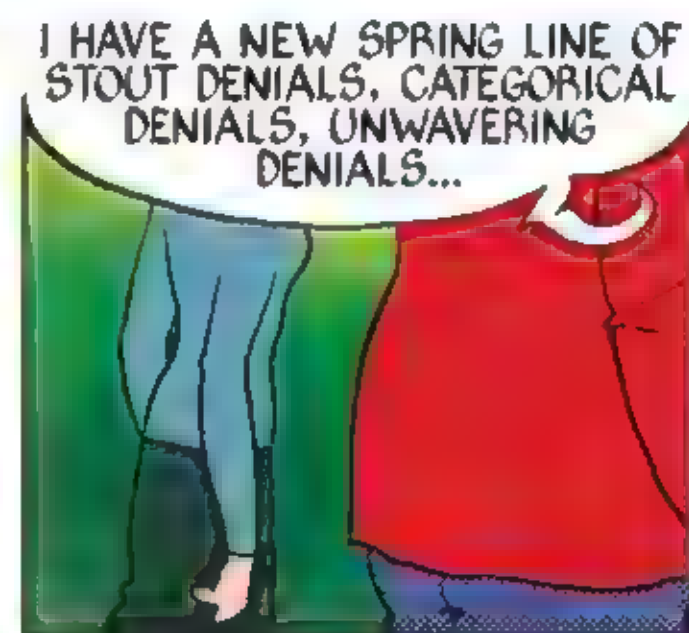
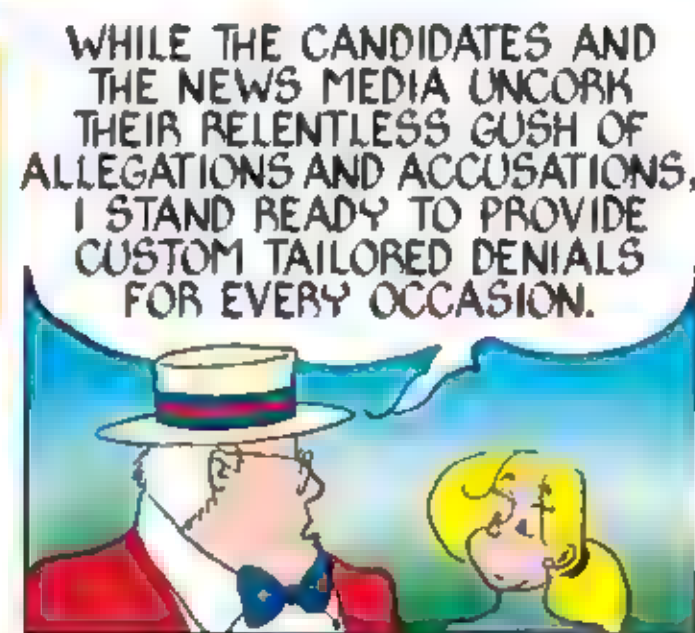
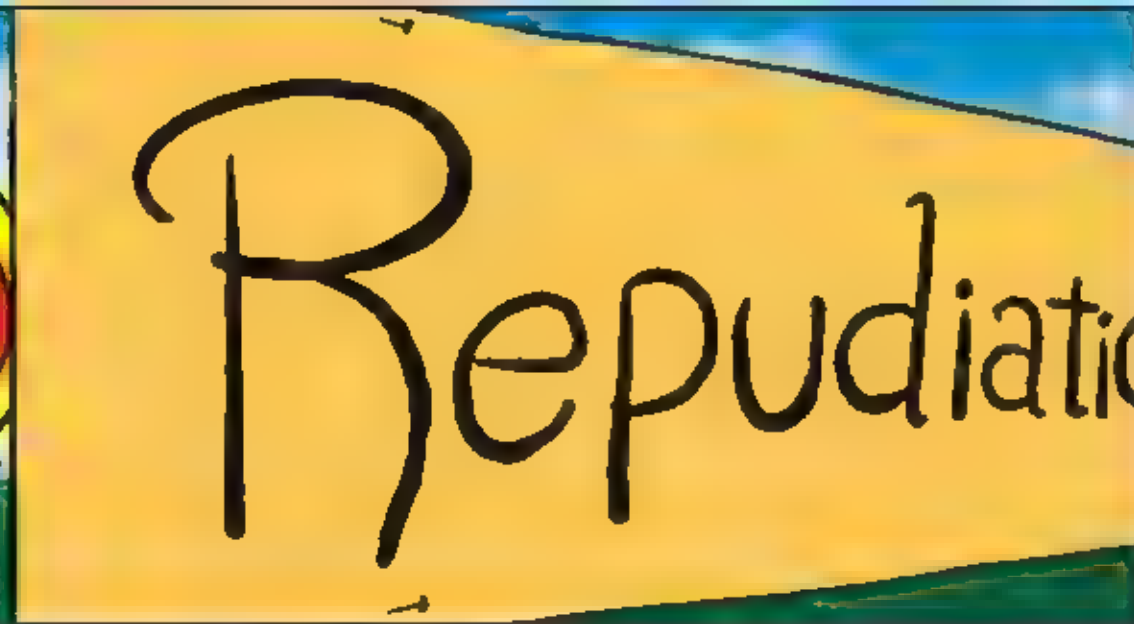


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DO YOU THINK WE'RE TOO FAMILIAR WITH EACH OTHER, THAT WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS TOO LONG FOR YOU TO FIND ANYTHING ABOUT ME SEXY?

NOT AT ALL...

YOU HAVE THE SEXIEST ANKLES ON THE PLANET.

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OH, COME ON.

NO, REALLY. THEY'RE FATALLY SEXY.

*Brooke*

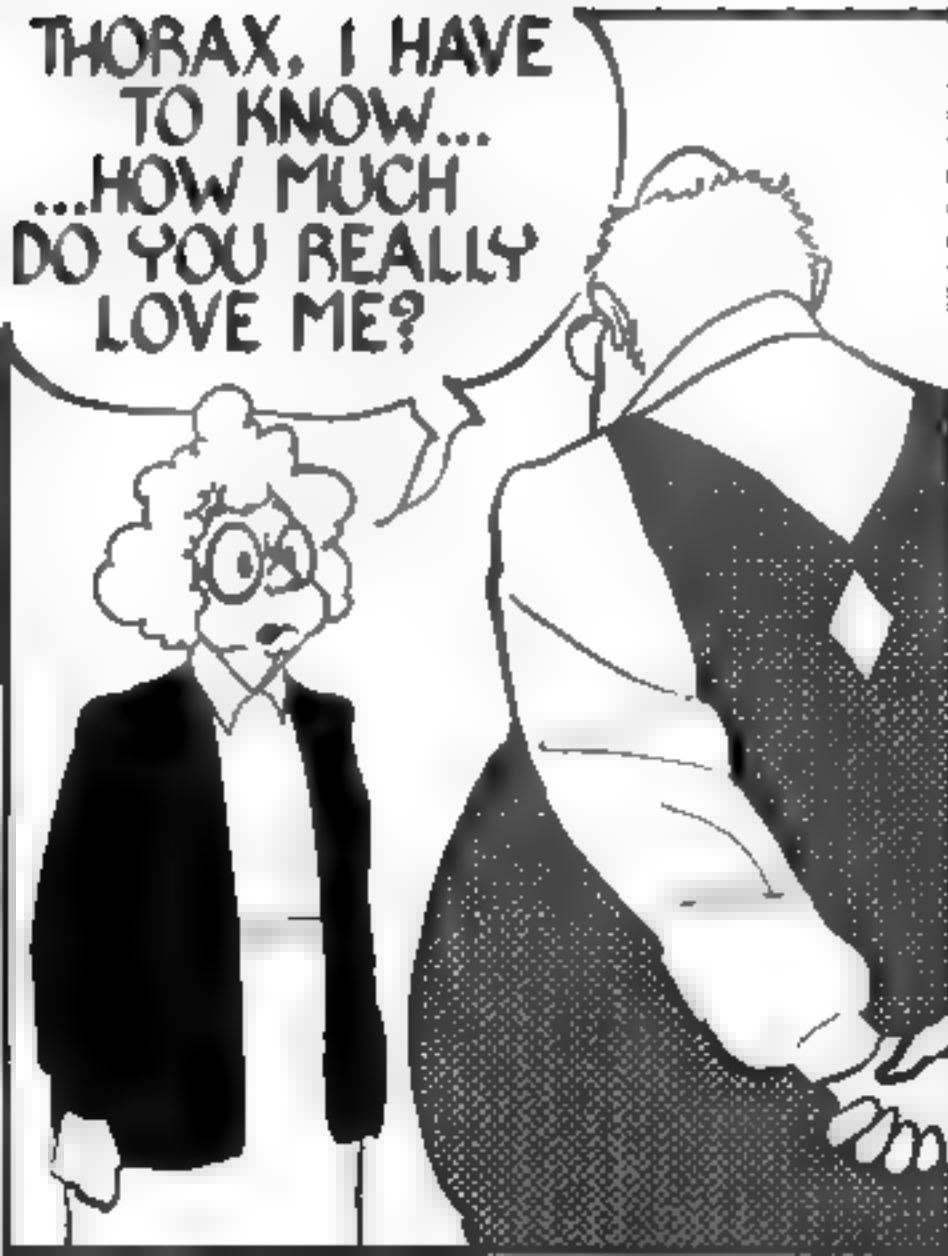
IT'S JUST TOO EASY. I DON'T EVEN HAVE TO BRUSH MY HAIR.

HEY!

YOU KNOW THE RULES. FATALLY SEXY FEET OFF THE COUCH.





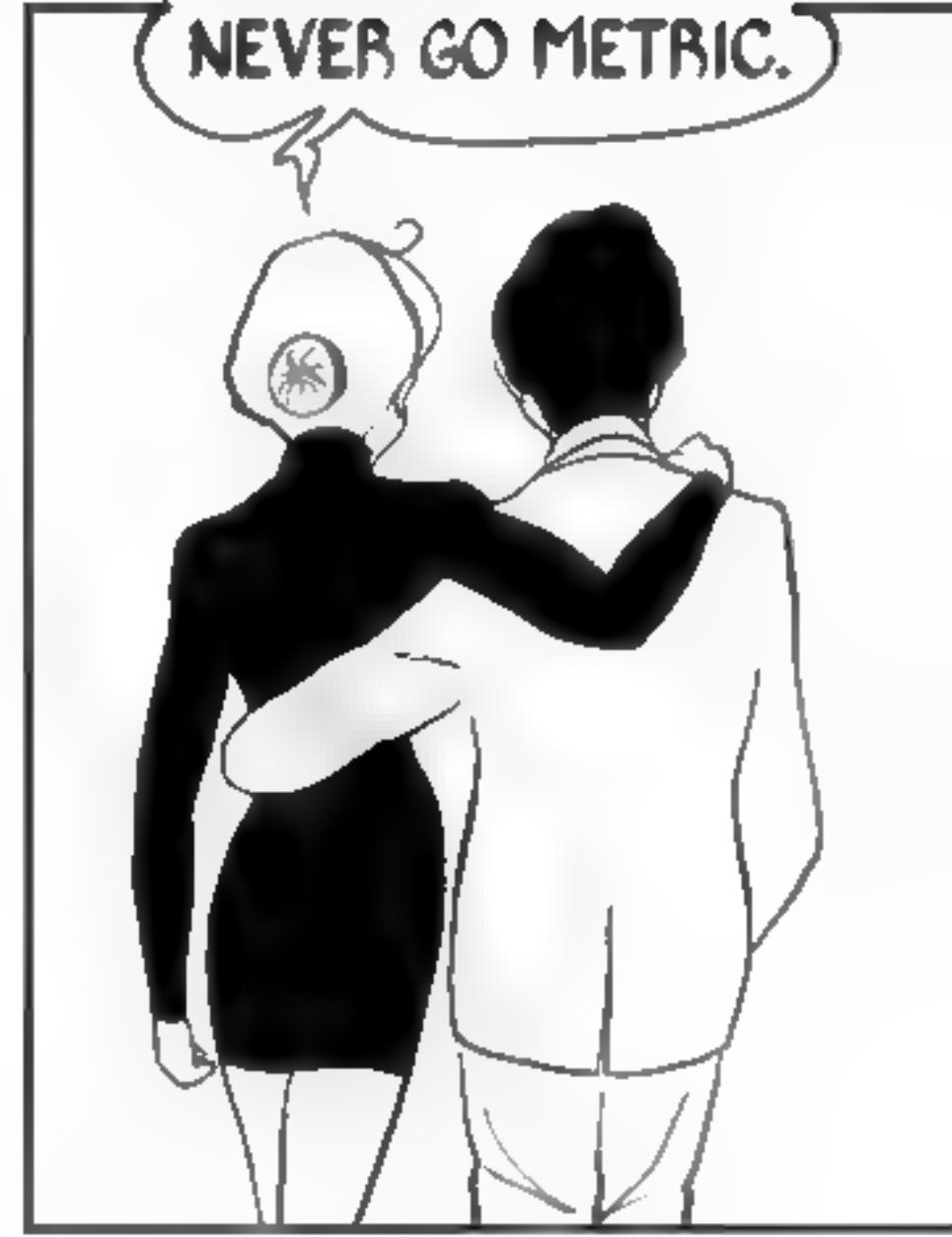




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Brooke







DO YOU EVER WONDER  
WHAT THE TRUE MEASURE  
IS OF YOUR LOVE  
FOR YOUR  
SPOUSE?

IT'S  
GOATS.

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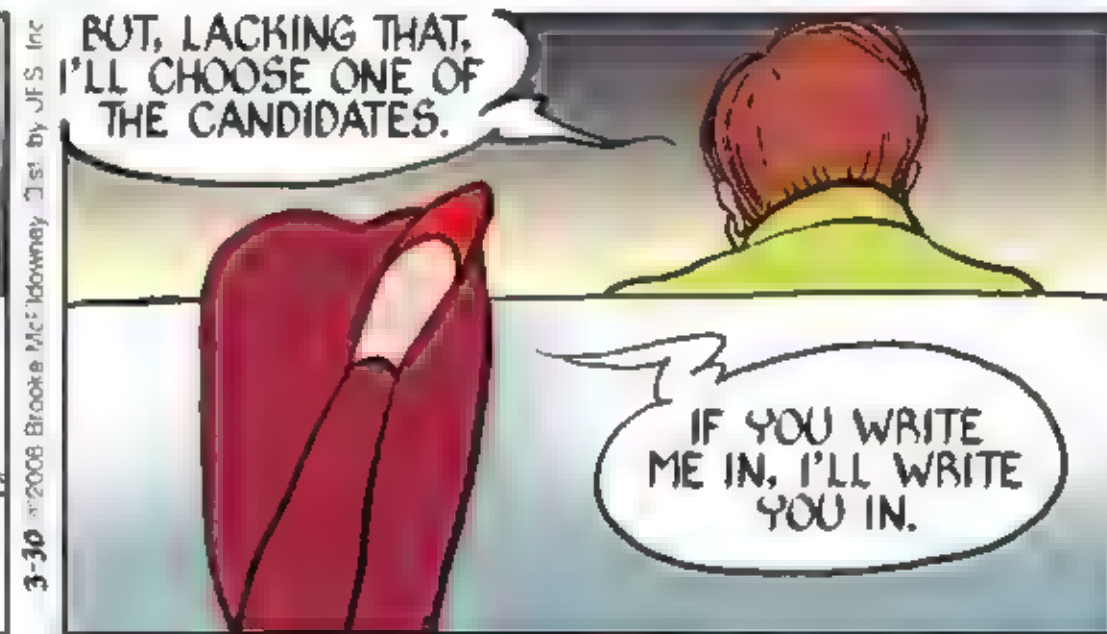
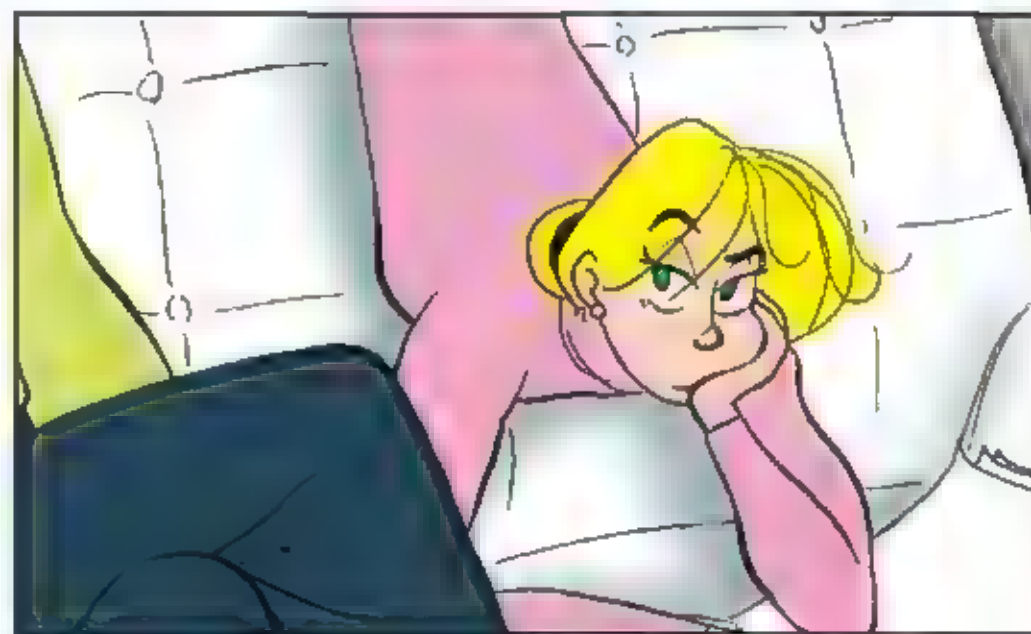
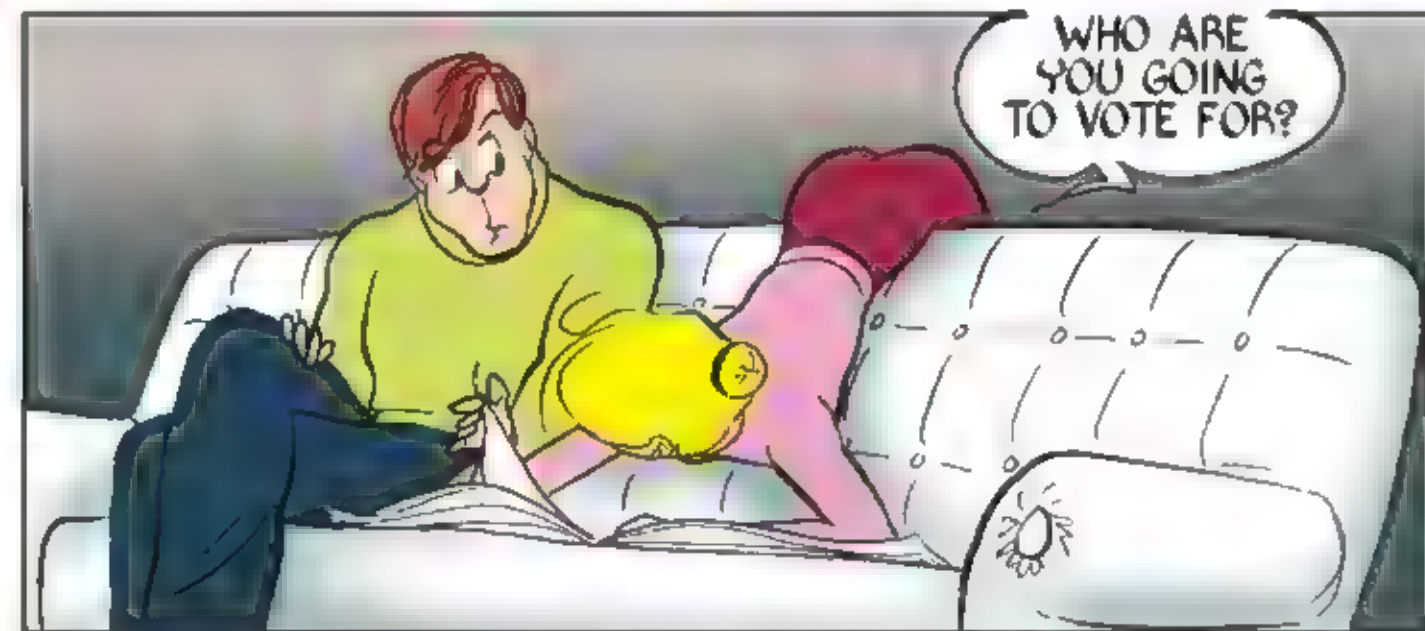
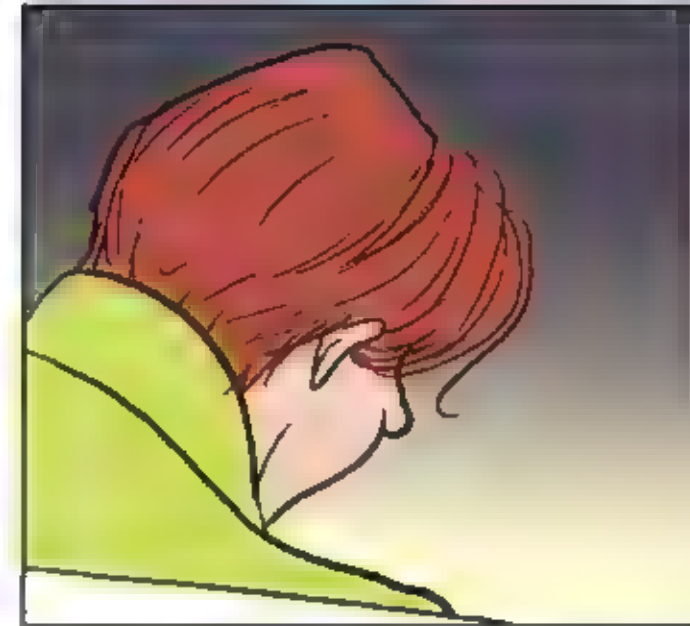
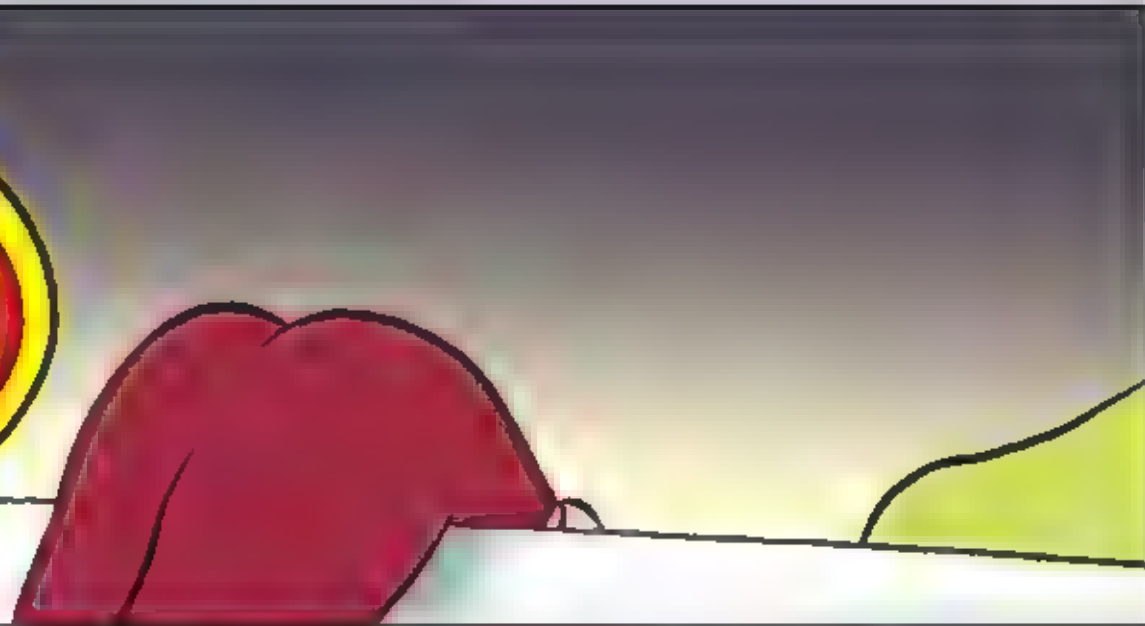
GOATS?

YOU'RE  
WORTH  
257.

YOU...YOU DIDN'T  
EVEN PAUSE TO  
THINK ABOUT IT.

WHEN YOU  
TRULY LOVE  
A MAN,  
YOU KNOW  
HOW MANY  
GOATS  
HE'S  
WORTH.  
ASK  
ANY  
WOMAN.

*Brooke*





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I'M SORRY, GENTLEMEN.  
NEITHER OF YOU IS FIT  
FOR THIS JOB.



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YOU, SIR, ARE AN OLD  
WACKO, AND YOUR DAD  
IS SO PSYCHOPATHIC  
THAT I DREAD  
SPEAKING  
TO HIM  
DIRECTLY.



YOU MISAPPREHEND.  
YOU CANNOT SAY NO.  
YOU HAVE TO CHOOSE  
ONE OF US FOR  
THE JOB.



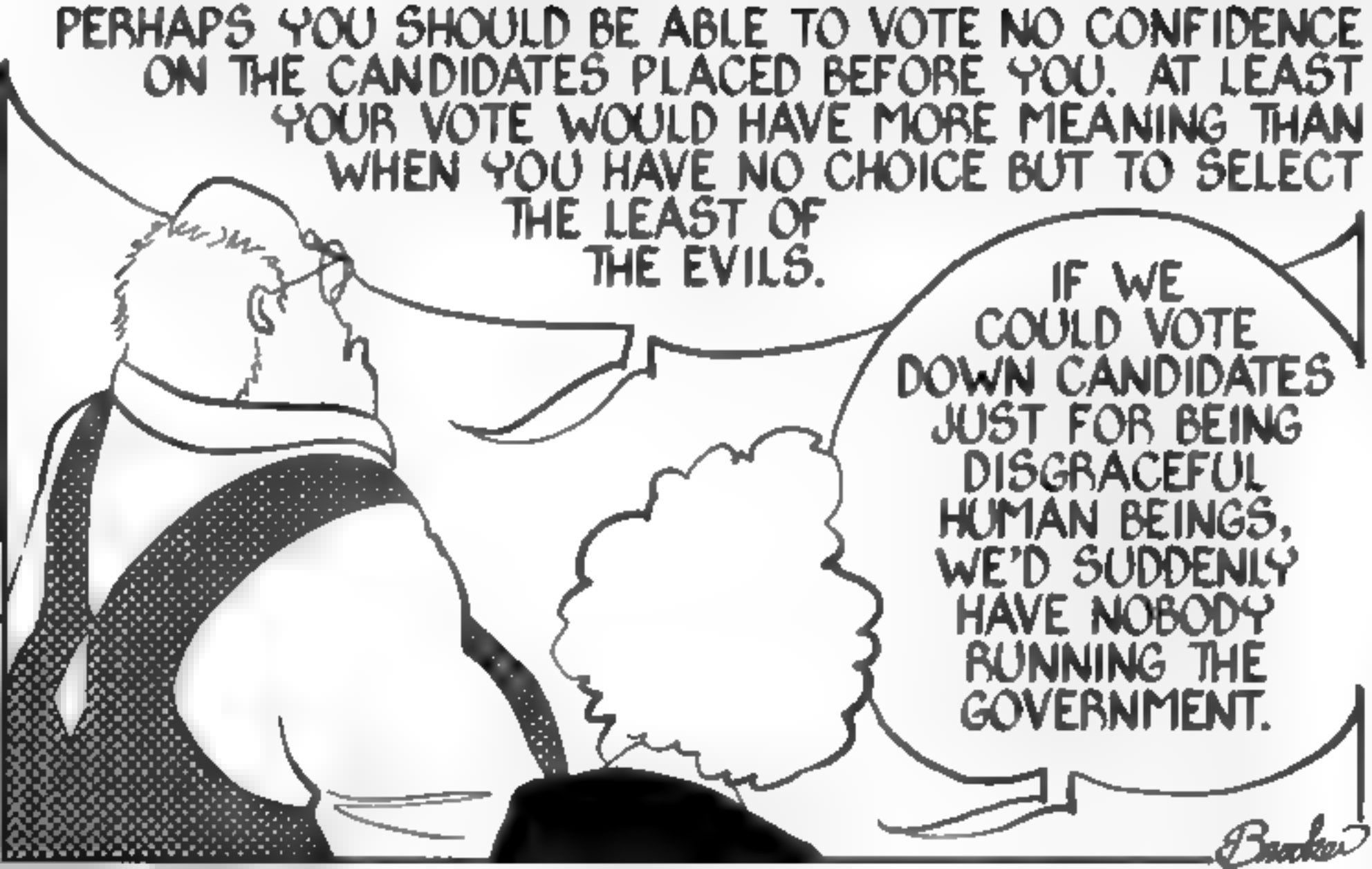
AND WHAT MAKES YOU  
THINK I CAN'T TURN  
DOWN UNFIT  
APPLICANTS?

THIS IS  
AN ELECTION  
YEAR...  
...IT'S  
TRADITION.



Booker







WHAT MAKES  
YOU THINK  
YOU'RE  
FIT TO DO  
THE JOB?  
YOU  
HAVEN'T  
EVEN  
HELD  
PUBLIC  
OFFICE.

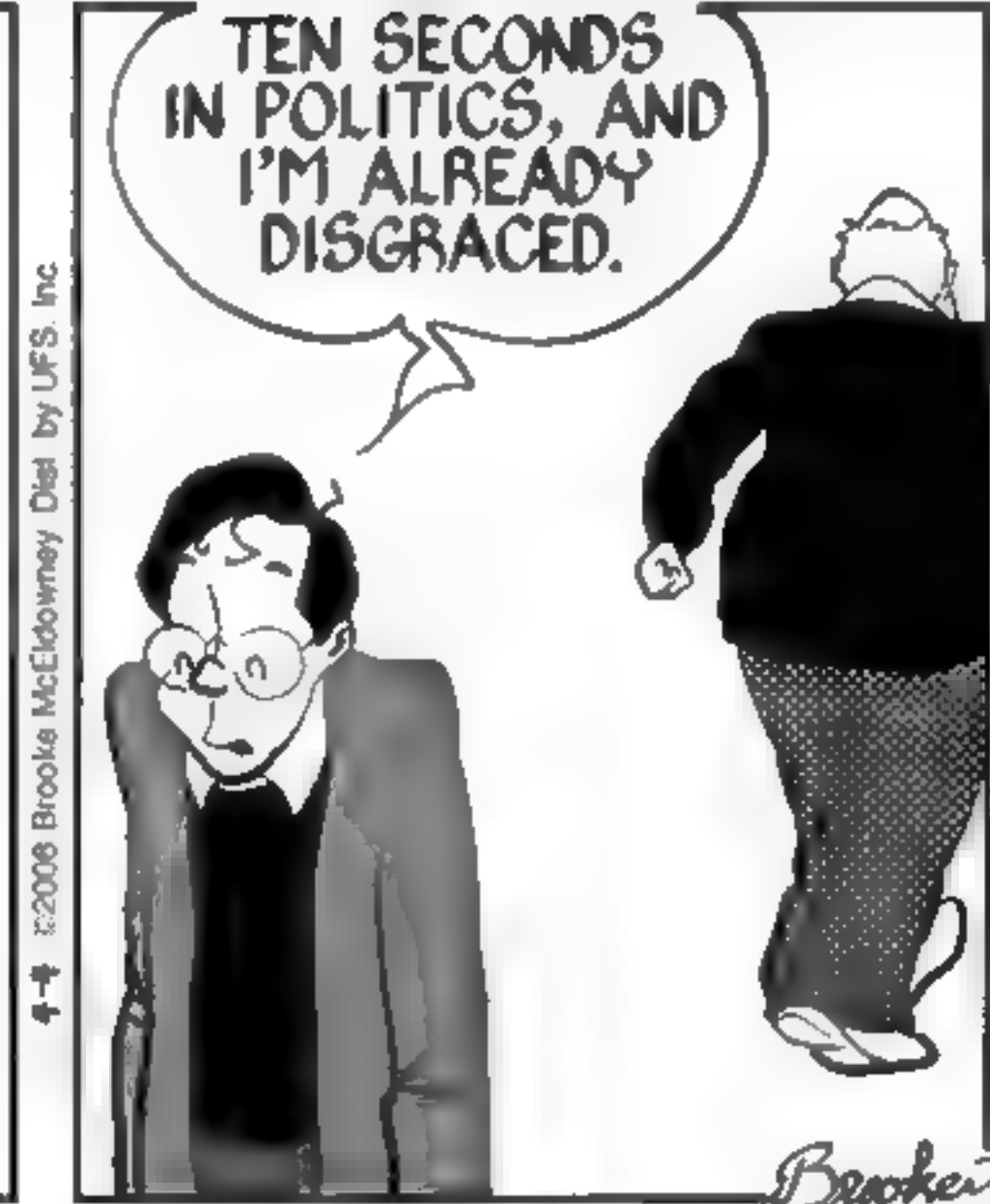
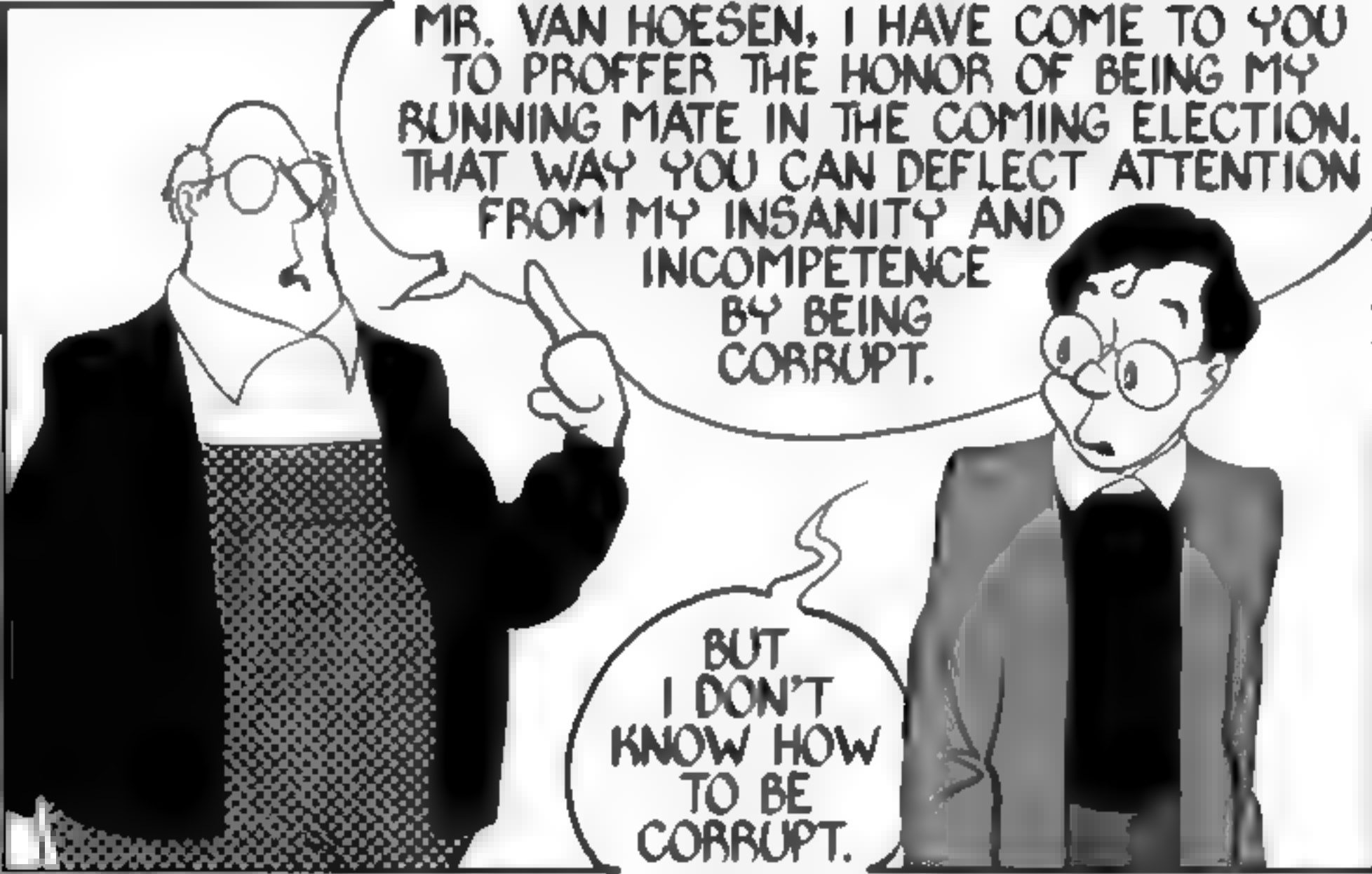
I PONDERED THAT, BUT DECIDED THIS  
IS THE MOST EFFICIENT ROUTE.  
...RATHER THAN BE UNFIT TO BE  
MAYOR THEN GOVERNOR, THEN UNFIT  
TO SERVE IN THE HOUSE OR THE  
SENATE, I THOUGHT  
I'D GO RIGHT FOR  
THE TOP AND BE  
UNFIT TO BE  
PRESIDENT.

THORAX FOR  
PRESIDENT

Brooke

I'M UNFIT TO DISCHARGE EVERY ELECTED JOB  
IN THE GOVERNMENT..YOU CAN'T IGNORE  
BROAD, ALL-ENCOMPASSING  
QUALIFICATIONS LIKE THOSE.  
THE OTHER CANDIDATES MAY  
POSSIBLY BE FIT TO HOLD THE  
OFFICE OF DOGCATCHER.  
YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO RAISE  
THEM ABOVE  
WHERE  
THEY  
TRULY  
BELONG.

I THINK  
I JUST HAD  
A PREMATURE  
VOTE-GASM.





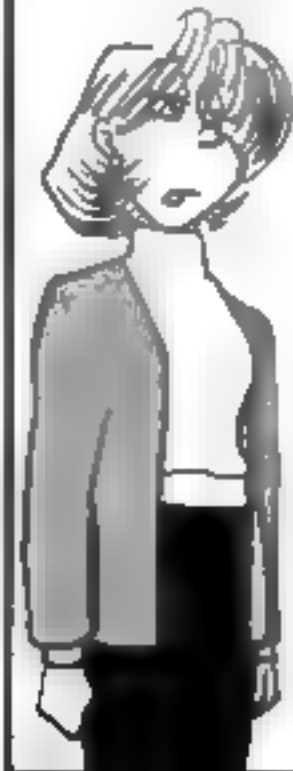
DR. BURBER, I'M IN THE  
MARKET FOR A RUNNING MATE.  
I'M OLD, CRAZY AND  
QUANTIFIABLY STUPID,  
BUT THAT'S NOT ENOUGH  
IN MODERN POLITICS.  
A DECORATIVE  
WOMAN IN THE NO. 2  
SPOT IS WHAT I NEED  
TO MAKE THOSE  
QUALITIES  
IRRESISTABLE.



THERE'S ONLY ONE POSSIBLE  
LIABILITY YOU MIGHT POSE  
IN HOLDING THE JOB...  
...ARE YOU CRIMINAL,  
MEGALOMANIAC, WACKO,  
SOCIOPATHIC, BENT ON  
WORLD DOMINATION OR  
JUST PLAIN  
IGNORANT?



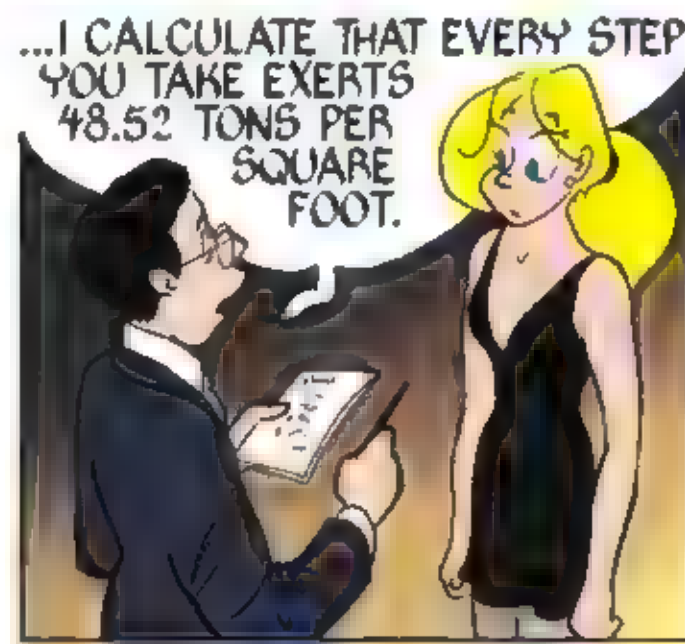
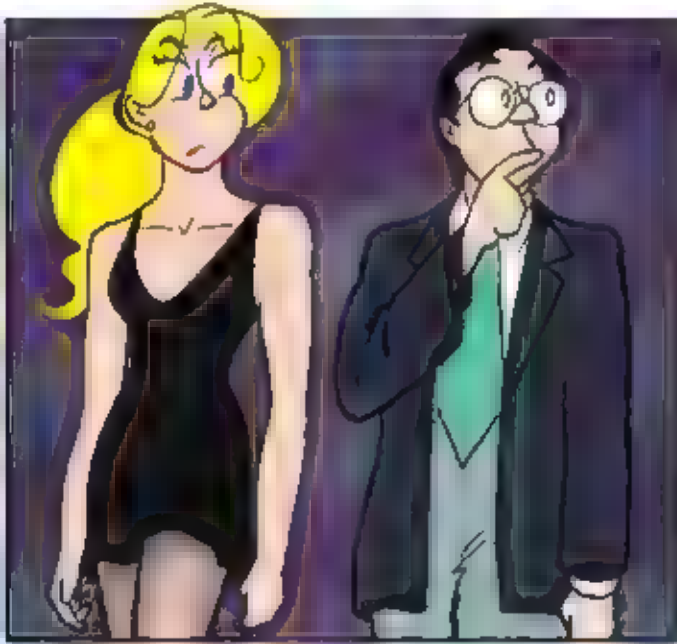
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NO.

THEN  
YOU WON'T  
FIT IN.







IT'S MY 20th BIRTHDAY, SO I'M GIVING MYSELF A PRESENT.

IT'S MY 20th TOO!...  
...HEY, I SAW YOU IN "SWAN LAKE" LAST NIGHT.

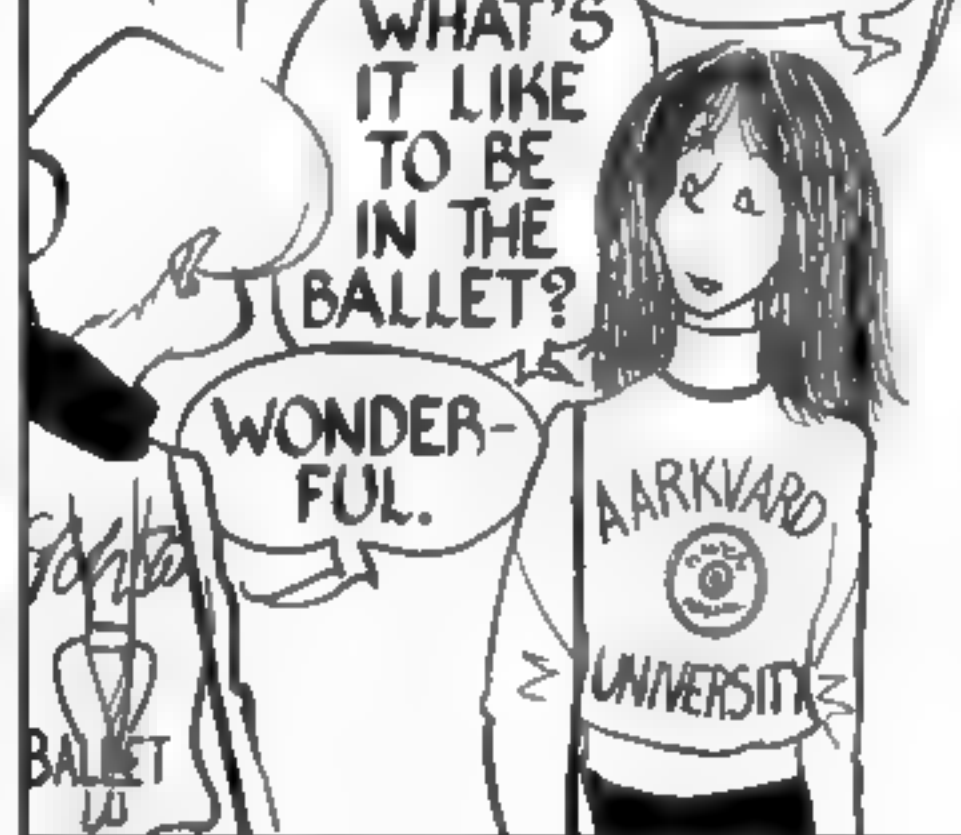


YOU MUST GO TO AARKVARD.

YES, I DO.

WHAT'S IT LIKE?

GREAT.



WELL, HAPPY BIRTHDAY.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU TOO.

STUCK-UP PRINCESS.

SMUG "ARTISTE."



I WISH I WERE AT AARKVARD.

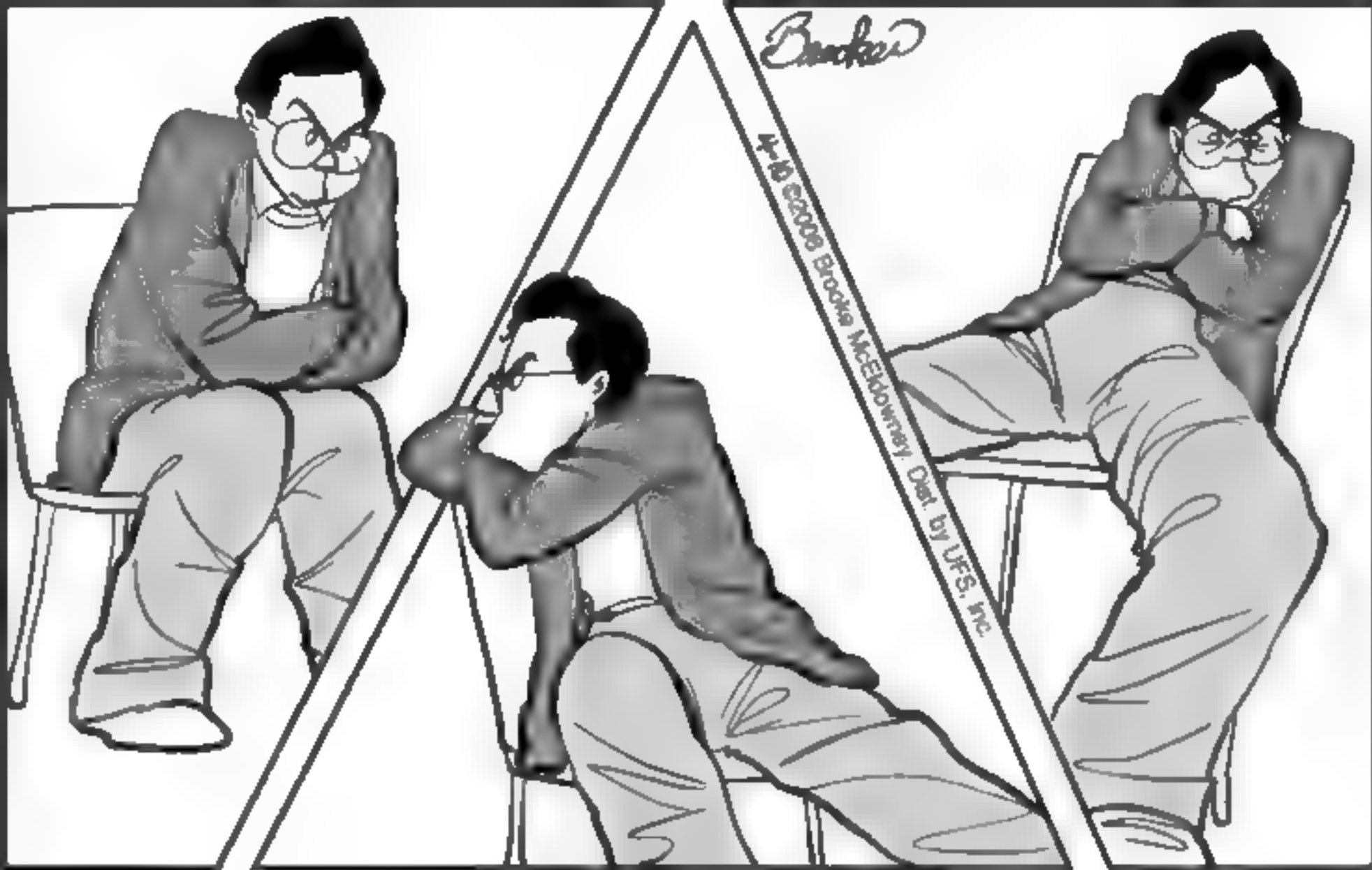
I WISH I WERE IN THE BALLET.



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MAYBE I CAN'T GET INTO  
A CLASSIC TURBO BAD  
MOOD POSTURE BECAUSE  
I'M NEVER IN A TURBO BAD  
MOOD FRAME OF MIND.  
I'M USUALLY IN A REALLY  
TURBO GOOD  
MOOD...  
...FOR IN-  
STANCE...

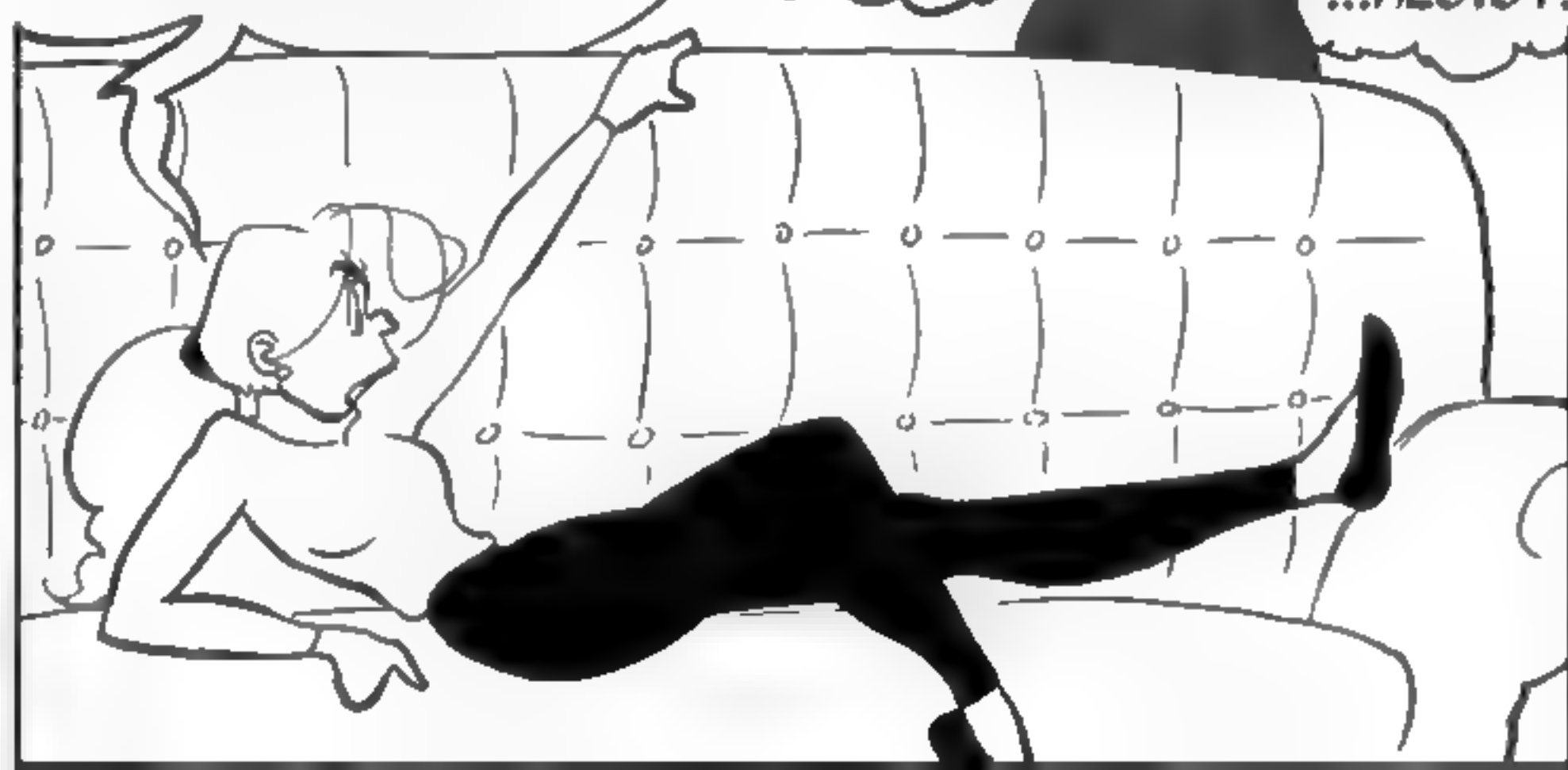


...NOW.

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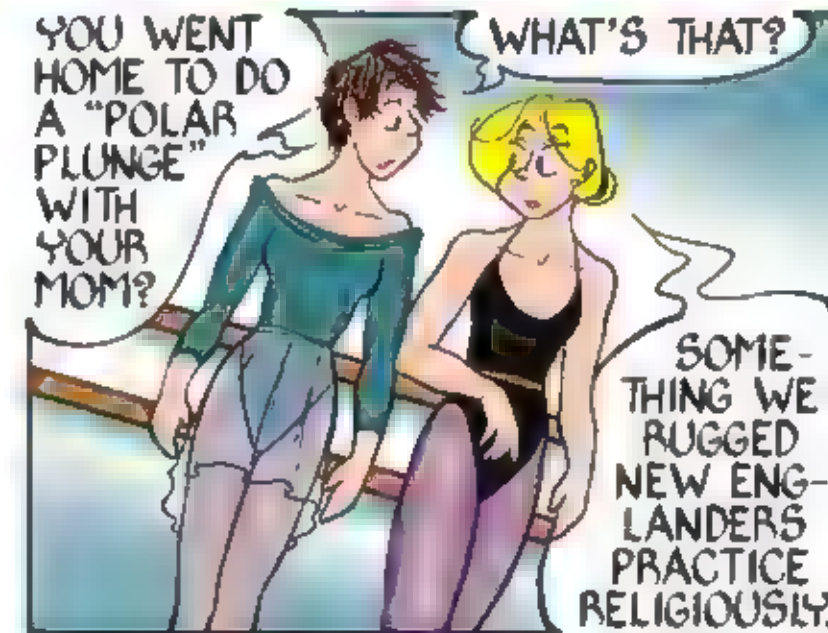
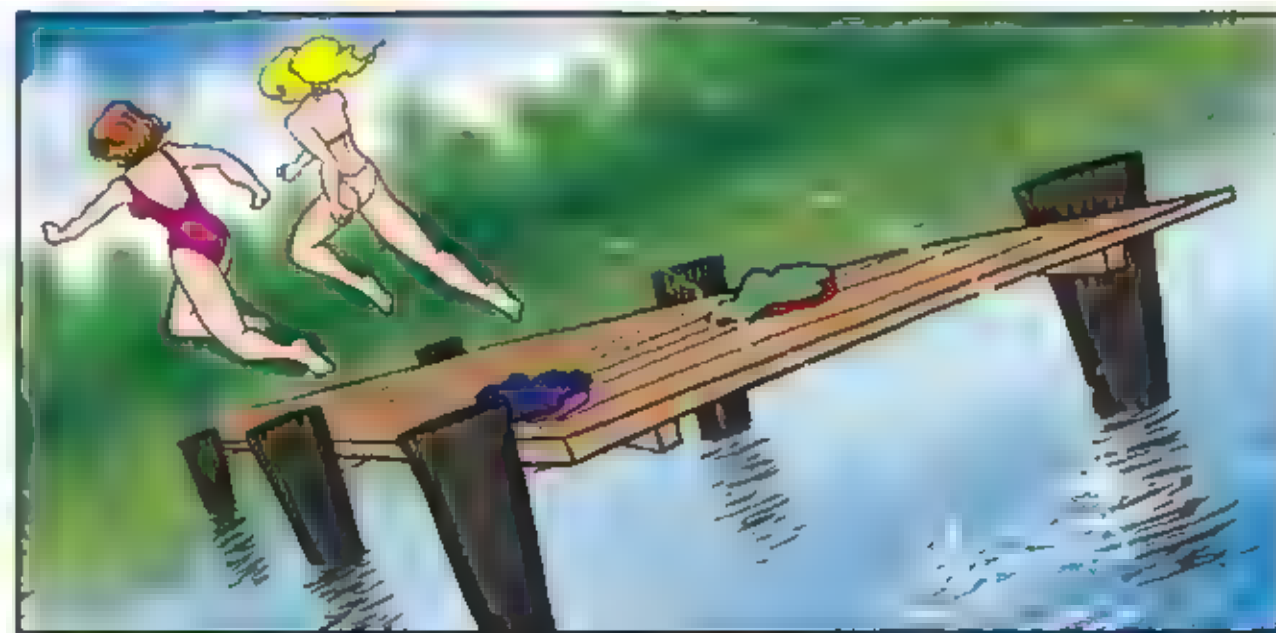
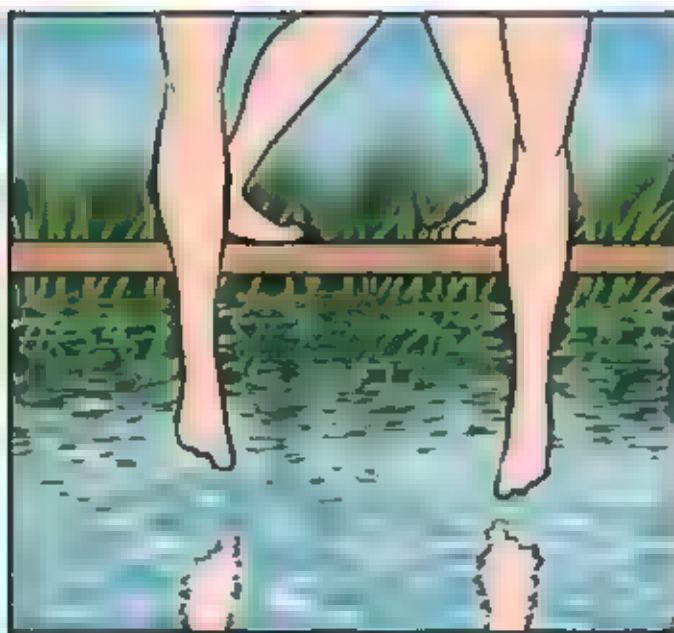
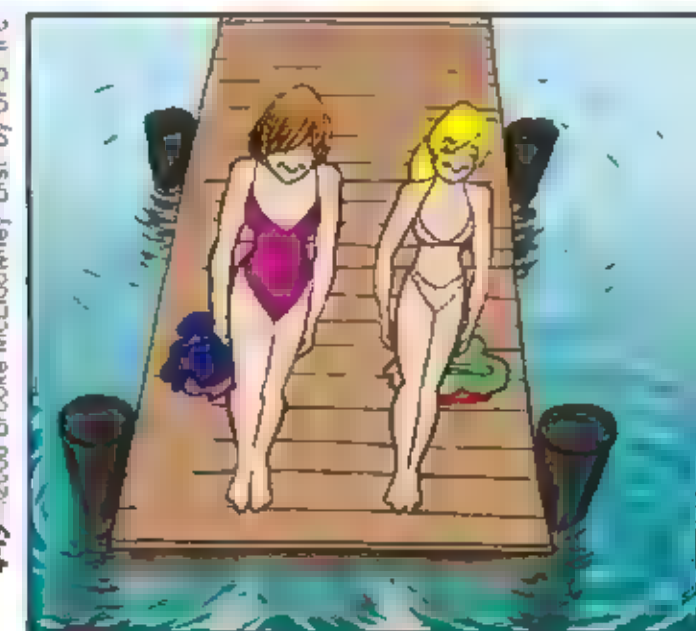
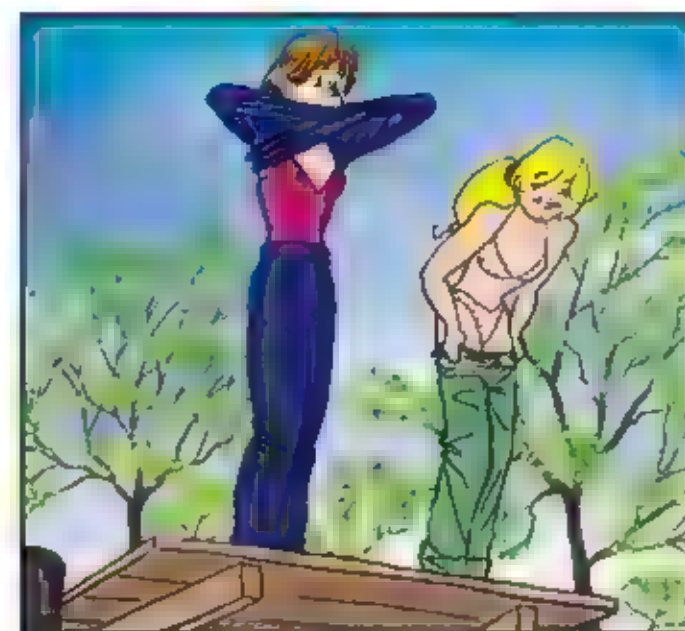
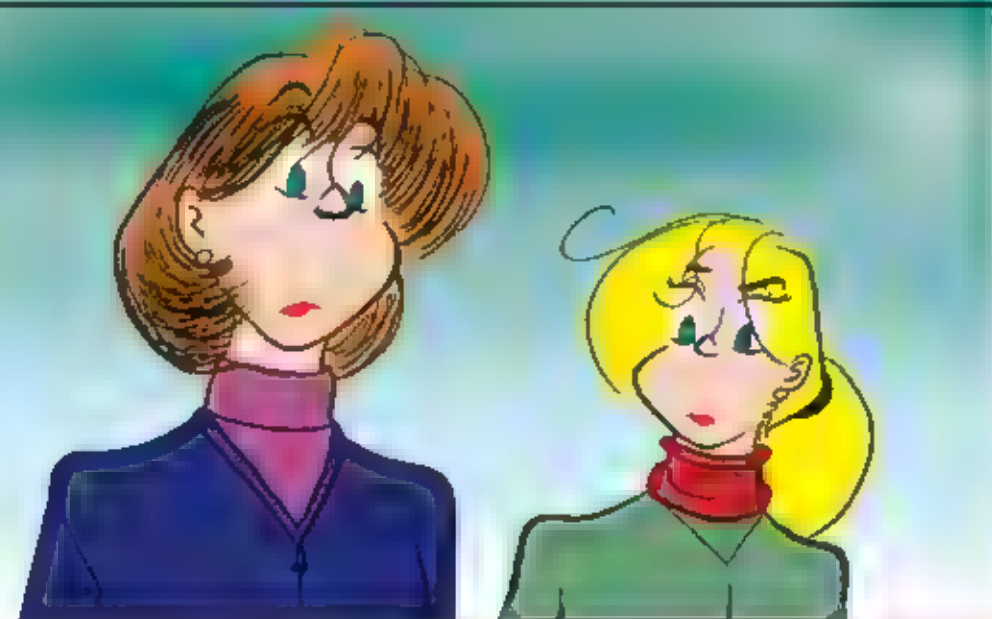
I DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM  
WITH A GOOD MOOD...  
...IT'S THE TURBO PART  
I FIND FRUSTRATING.



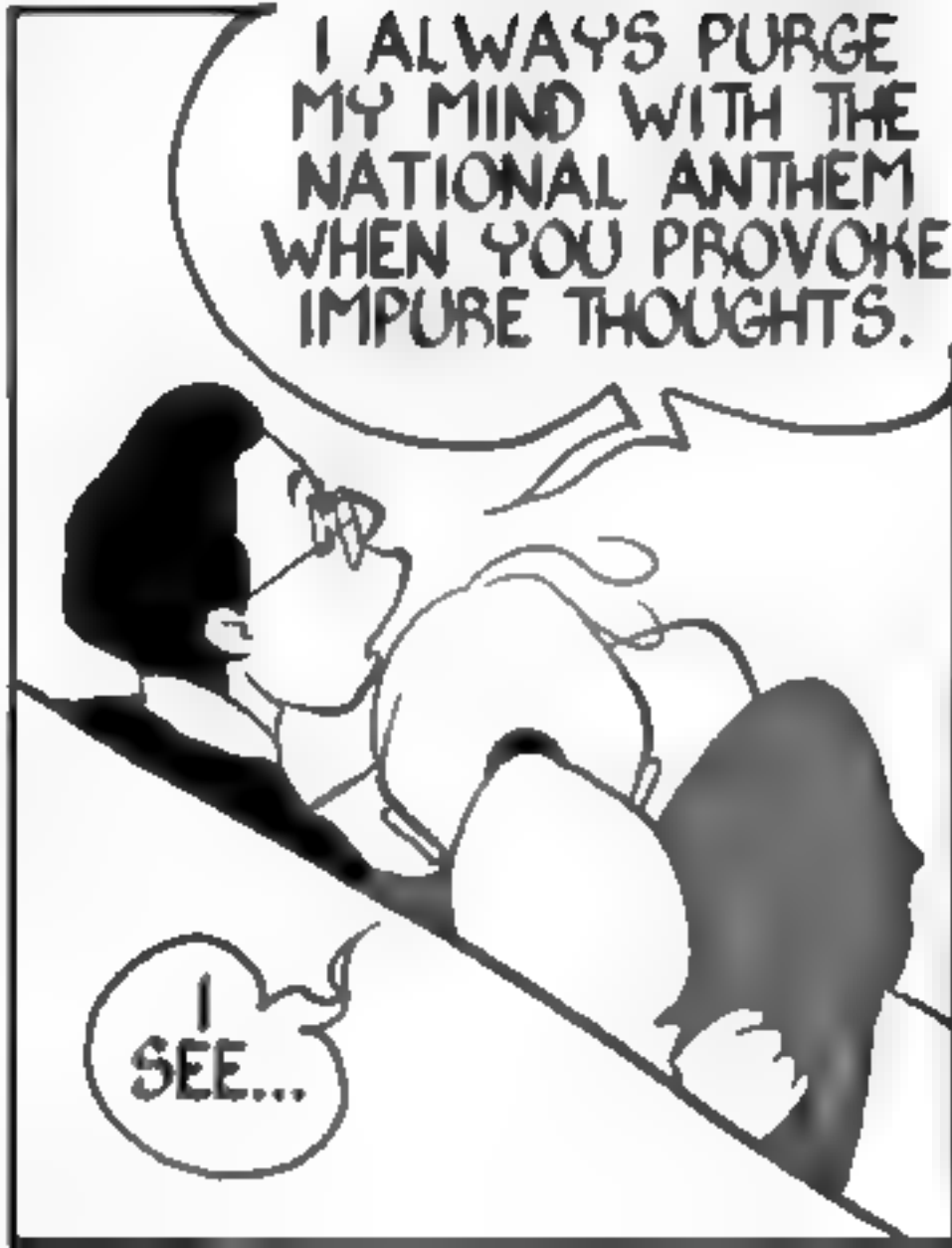
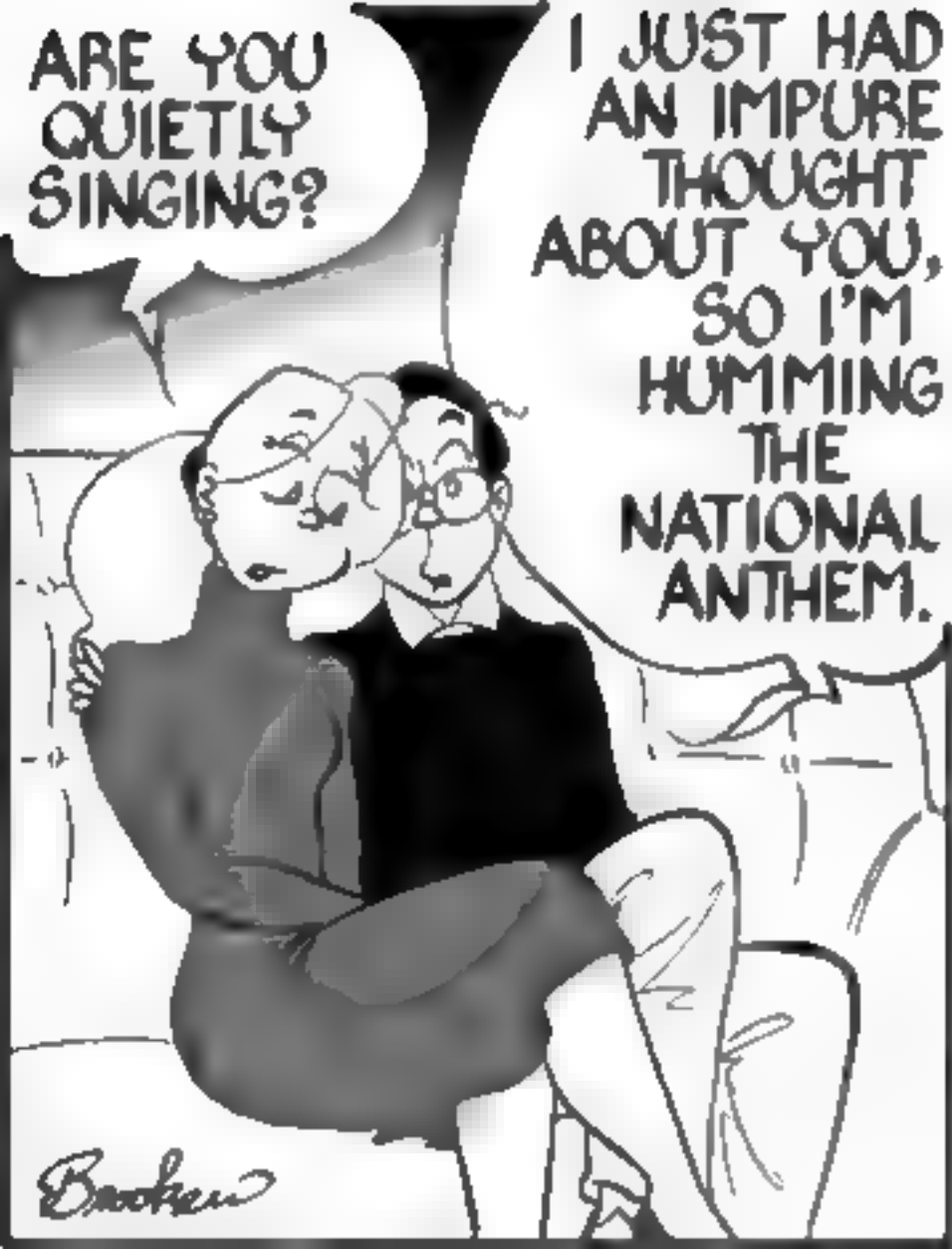
RESIST  
THE URGE  
TO ASK...

...RESIST.





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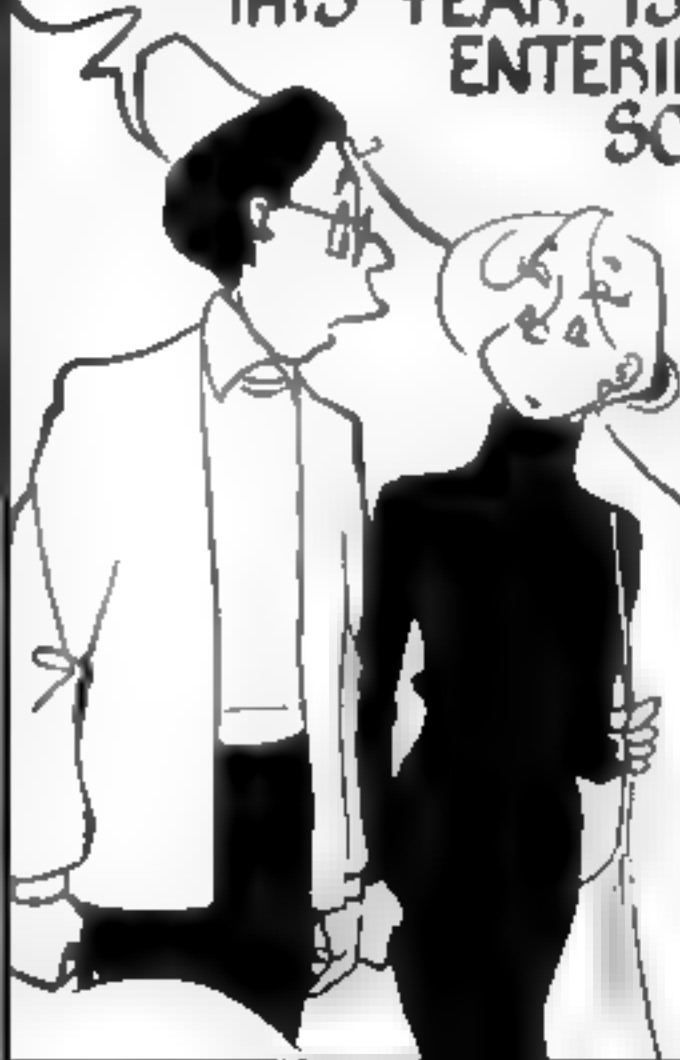


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I'VE DECIDED TO ENTER THE  
FORRESTIER COMPETITION  
THIS YEAR. ISABEL IS  
ENTERING TOO,  
SO SHE'LL  
BE MY  
PIANIST  
WHEN  
I'M  
THERE.



Brooke

THAT MEANS YOU'LL BE  
TRAVELING TO BRUSSELS,  
ALONE WITH ISABEL.  
ARE YOU PREPARED  
FOR THAT?



I TOLD HER THAT WITH  
PROVOCATION MY  
SCREAM CAN BE  
HEARD FOR MILES.  
SHE SAID, SO  
CAN HERS.



ALTHOUGH I DON'T THINK  
SHE WAS TALKING  
ABOUT THE SAME  
PROVOCATION.

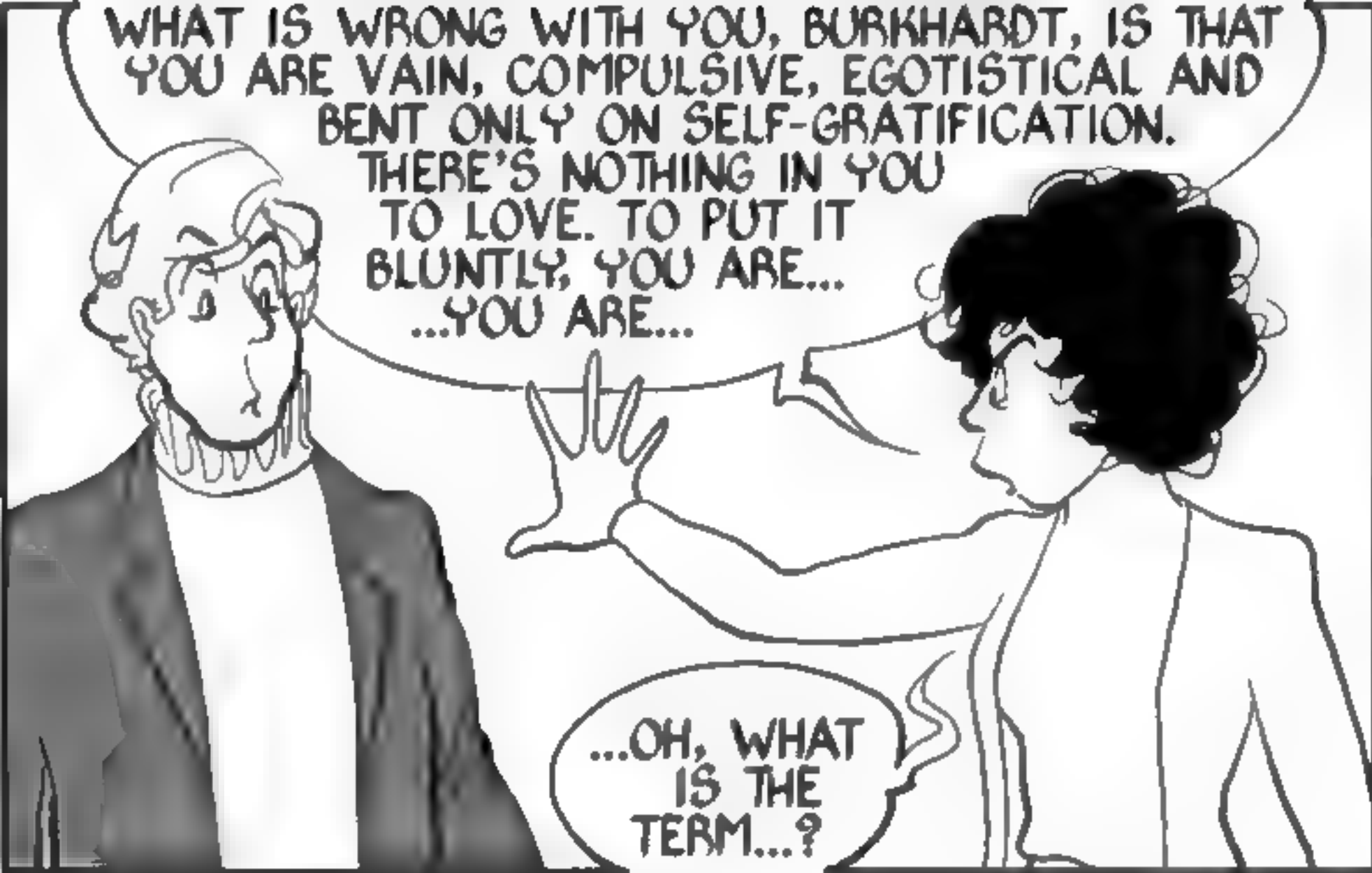


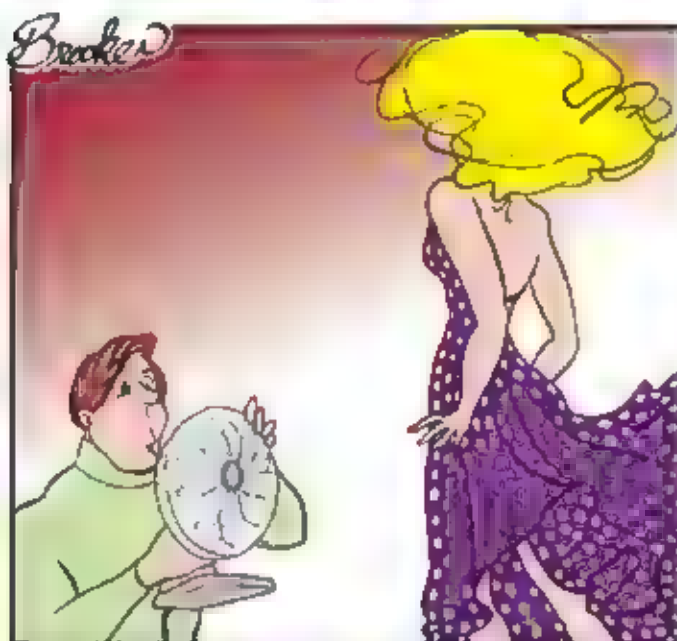
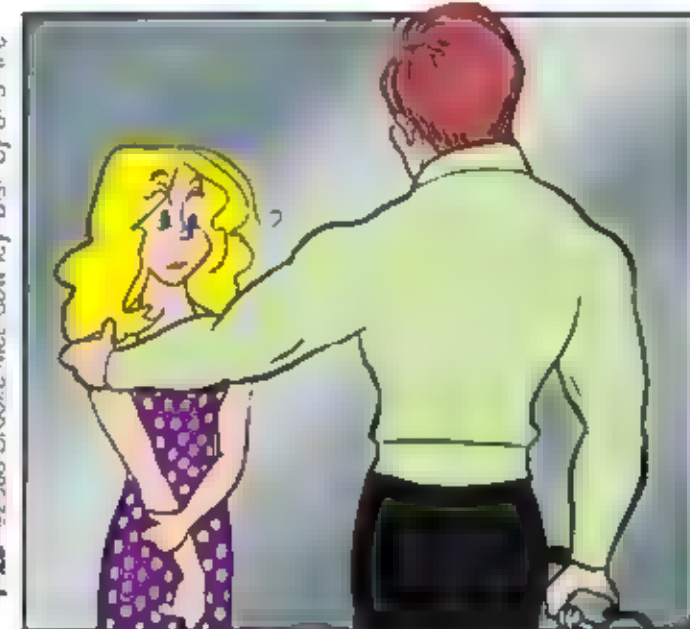
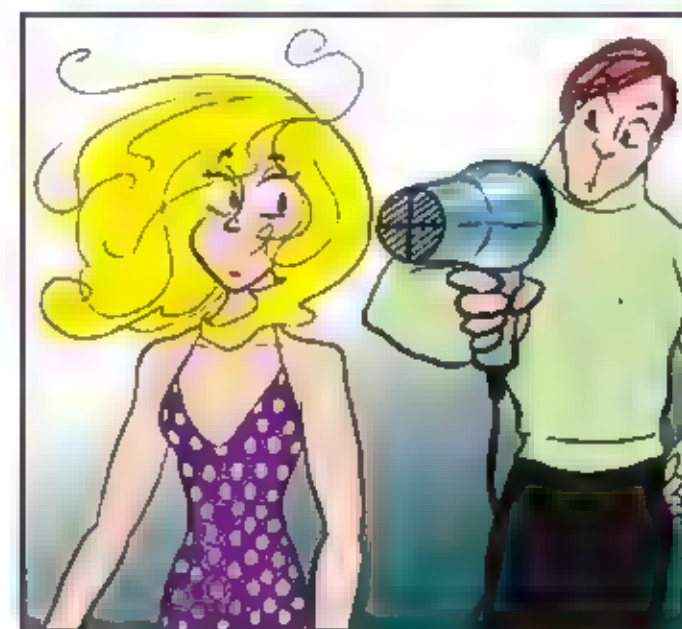
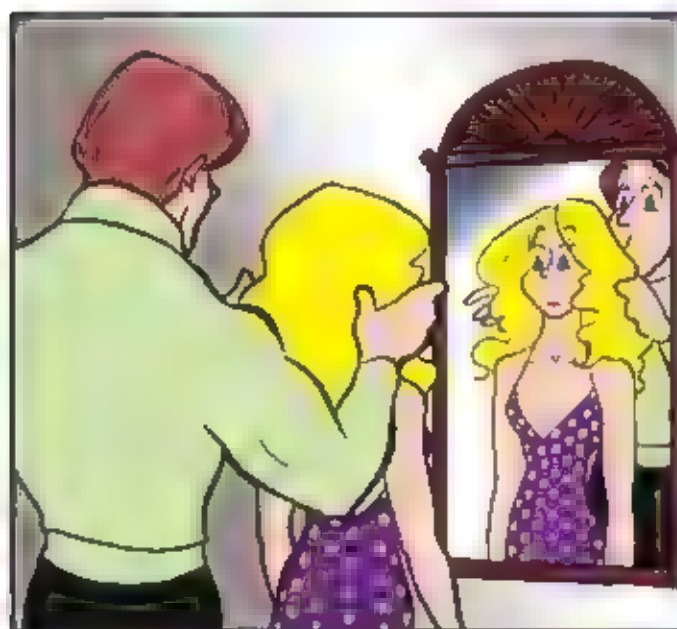










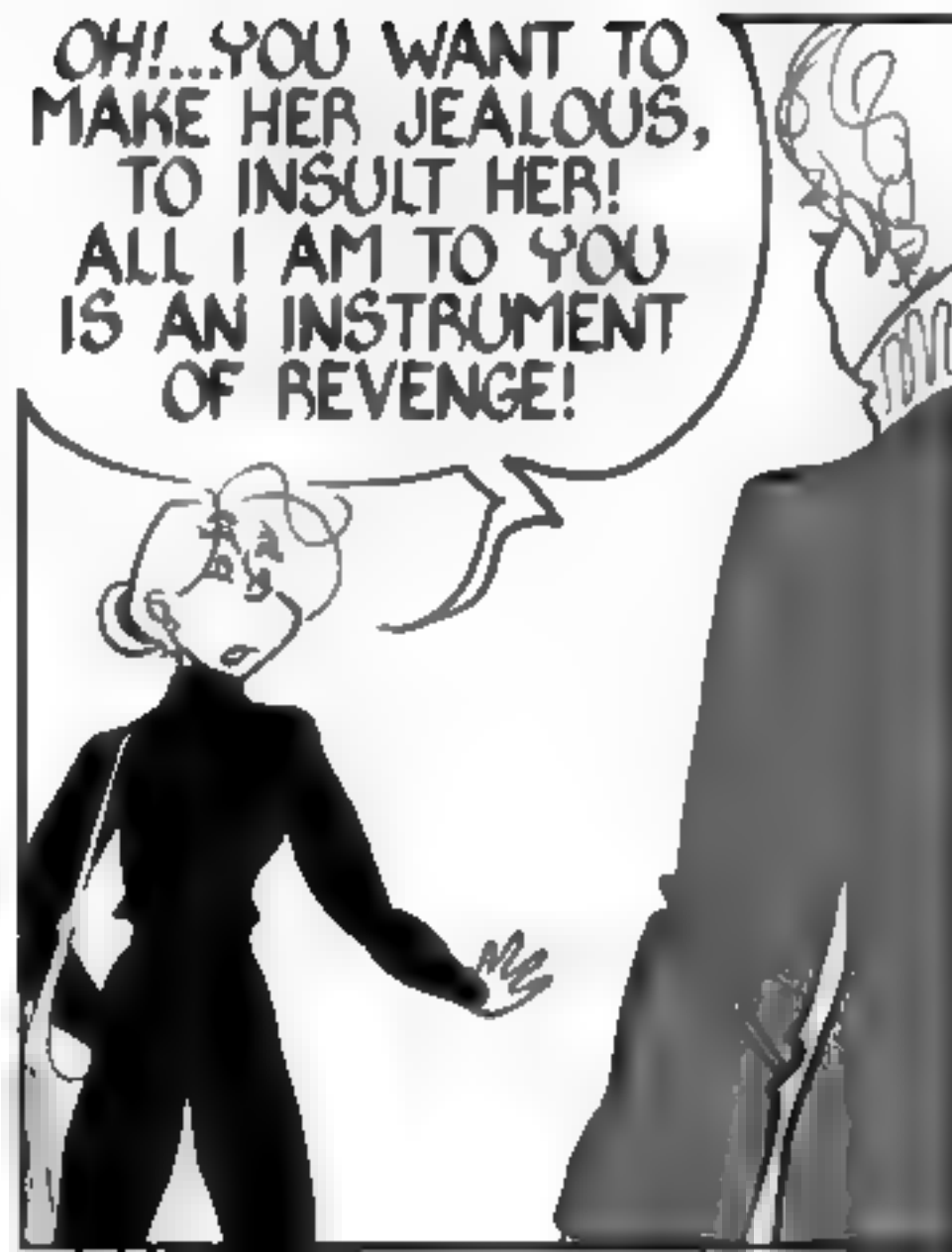


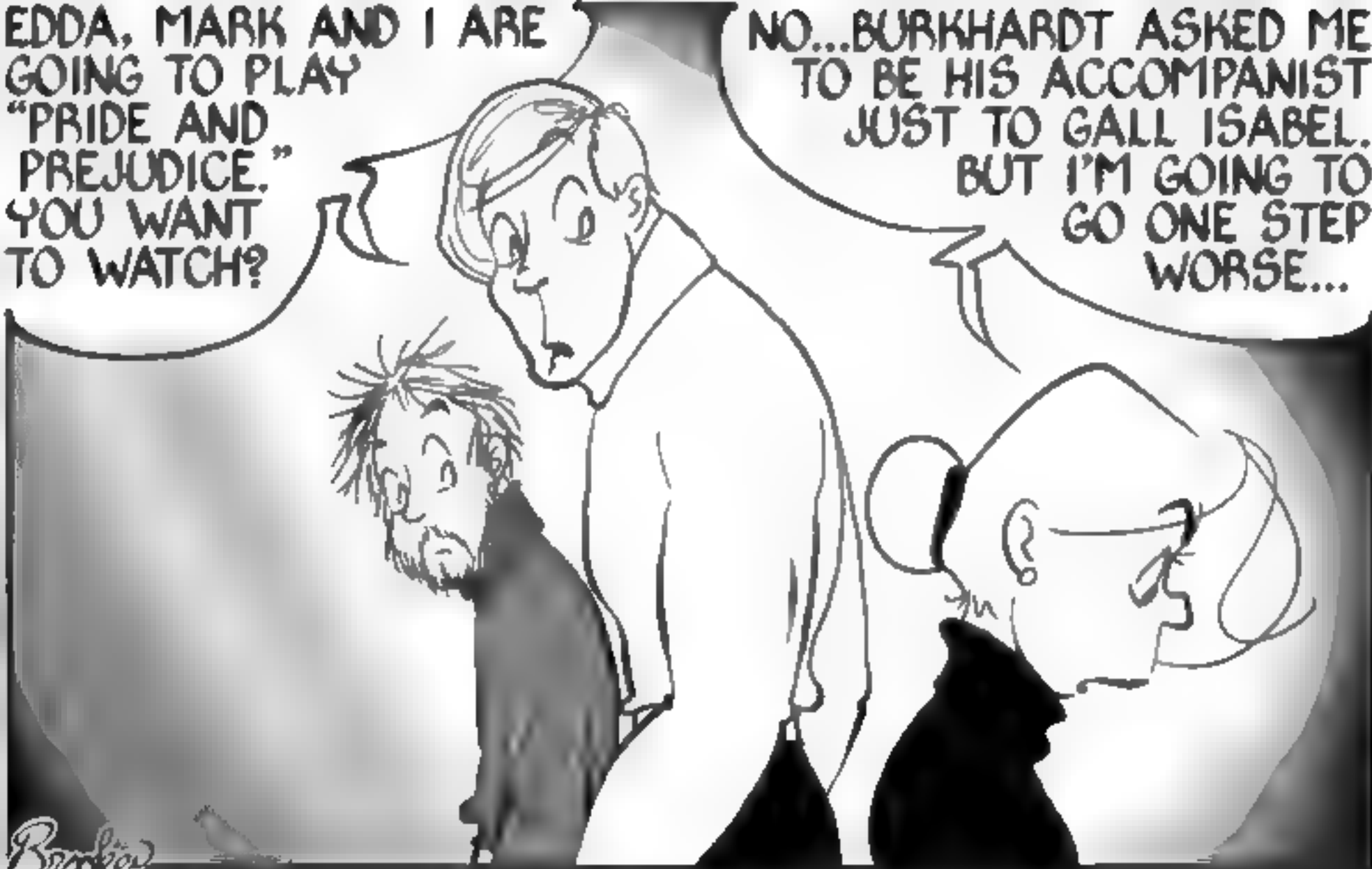














SO JUST  
LIKE THAT,  
YOU'RE NOW  
BURKHARDT'S  
ACCOM-  
PANIST?

ISABEL GOT  
ANGRY AT  
SOMETHING  
HE SAID...  
...AND HE  
ASKED ME  
TO TAKE  
OVER.



IT'S SILLY HOW PEOPLE  
CAN GIVE ONE LITTLE WORD,  
UTTERED AT A PARTICULAR  
MOMENT, THE FORCE  
TO SHATTER A WHOLE  
FRIENDSHIP.

IT  
SURE  
IS.



WOW!



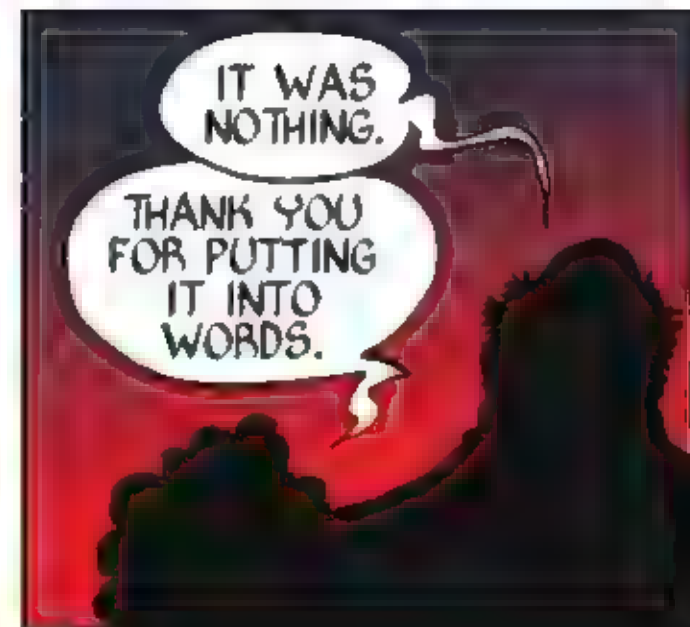




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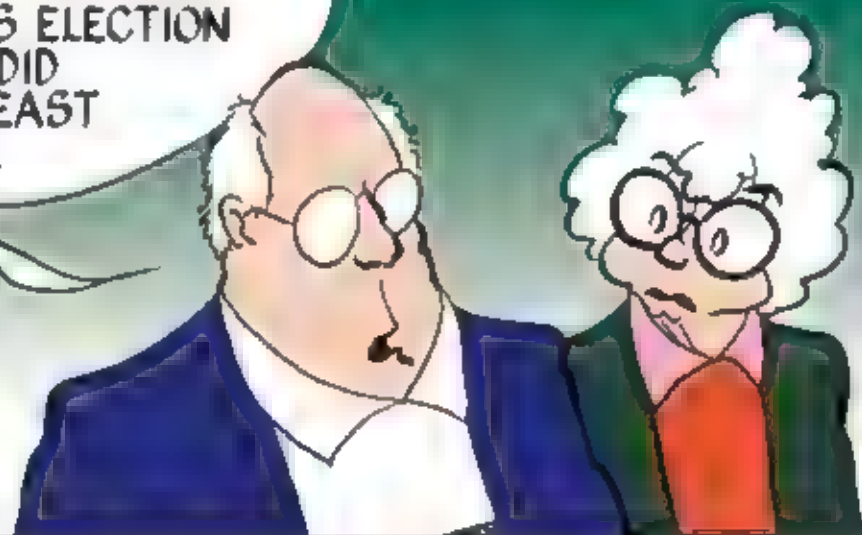
IT'S HARD  
FOR ME TO PUT  
INTO WORDS  
WHAT I THINK  
OF YOUR EFFORT  
ON BEHALF OF  
DEMOCRACY.



IT WAS  
NOTHING.

THANK YOU  
FOR PUTTING  
IT INTO  
WORDS.

I THINK, IN CONTRIBUTING  
MY SUPPORT TO EACH  
CANDIDATE'S ELECTION  
EFFORTS, I DID  
THE VERY LEAST  
I COULD DO.



I  
AGREE,  
THORAX.

I AM  
OPTIMISTIC  
THAT MY ENDEAVOR  
WILL PROVIDE  
A GUIDING  
EXAMPLE  
TO OTHERS...

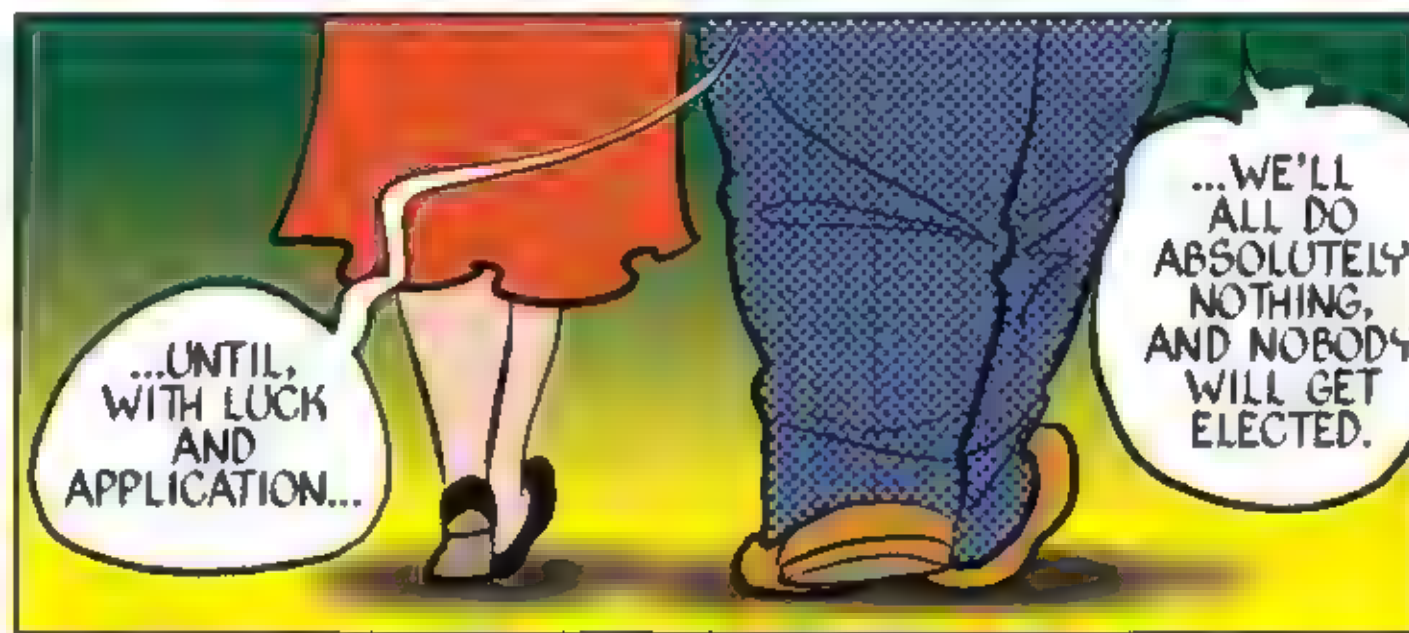


...AND THAT,  
IN TIME,  
IF WE ALL  
DO THE  
LEAST WE  
CAN DO...

...WE WILL GRADUALLY  
DO LESS AND  
LESS...



...UNTIL,  
WITH LUCK  
AND  
APPLICATION...



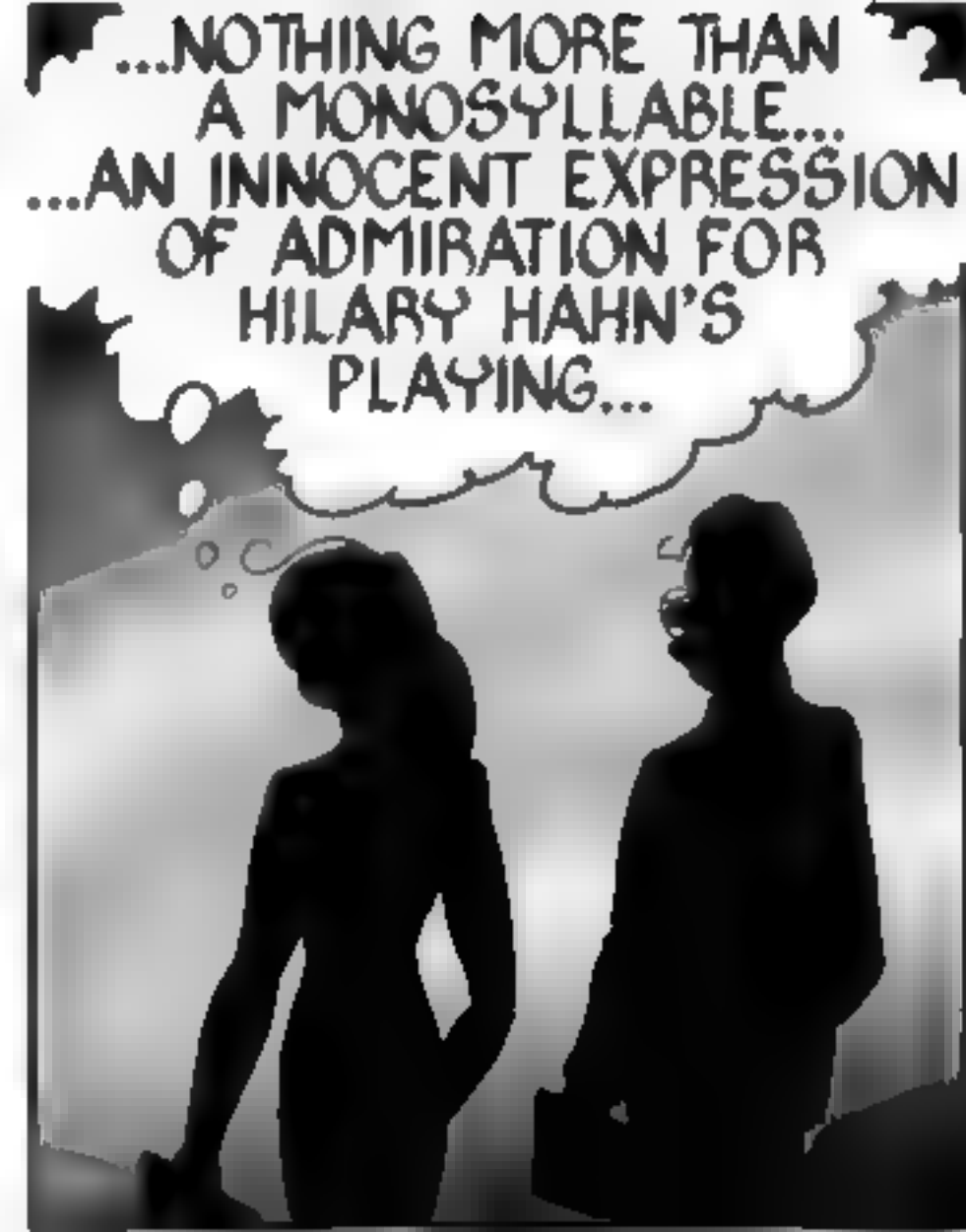
...WE'LL  
ALL DO  
ABSOLUTELY  
NOTHING,  
AND NOBODY  
WILL GET  
ELECTED.

IS THAT  
TOO MUCH  
TO ASK?

IT'S  
THE  
VERY  
LEAST.

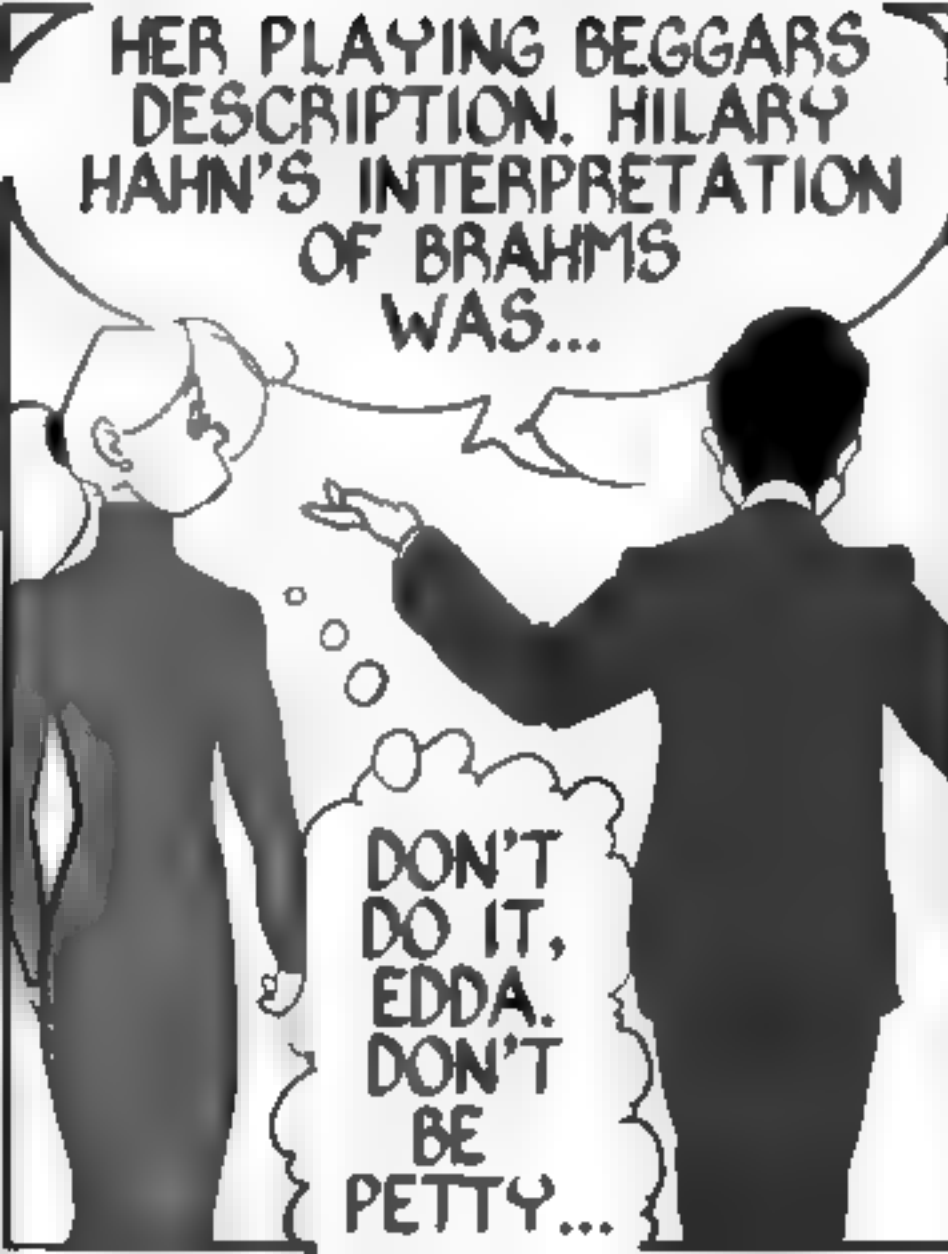












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YOU VERY CLEARLY  
DON'T LIKE HEARING  
ME TALK ABOUT  
HILARY  
HAHN!

YOU'RE NOT  
TALKING ABOUT HER...  
...YOU'RE JUST REPEATING  
HER NAME OVER AND  
OVER AND OVER.

YOU'RE  
JEALOUS!

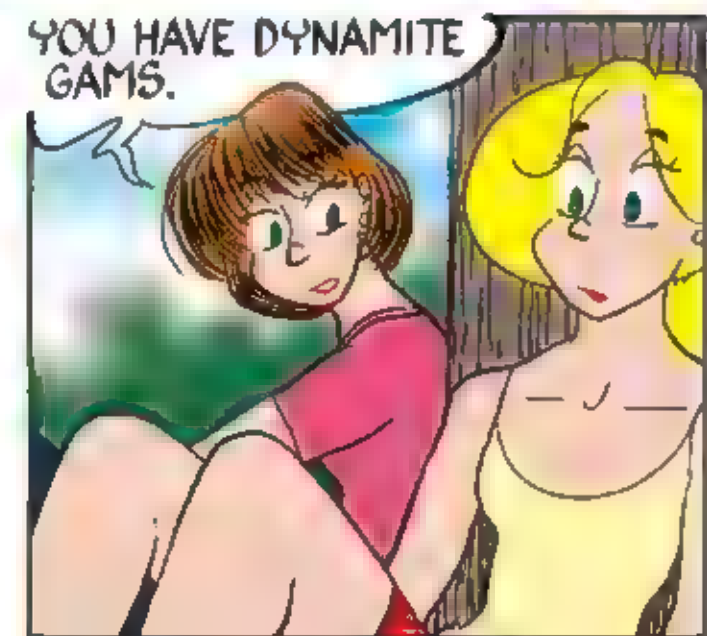
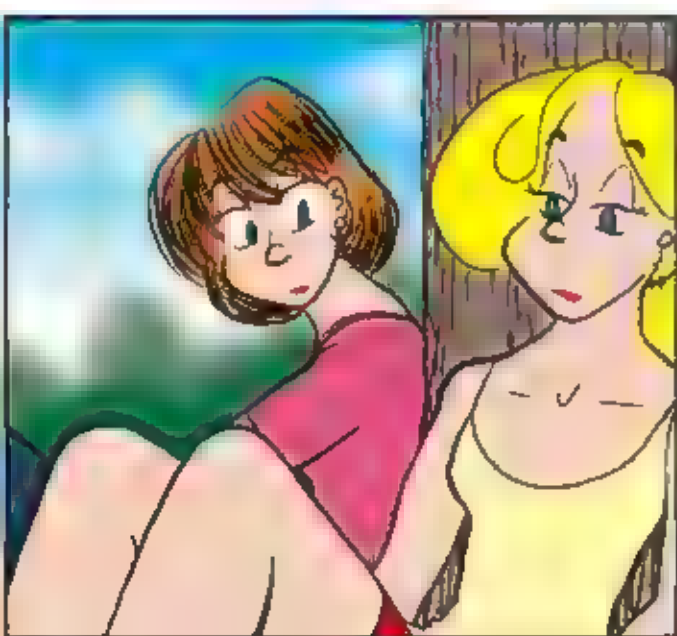
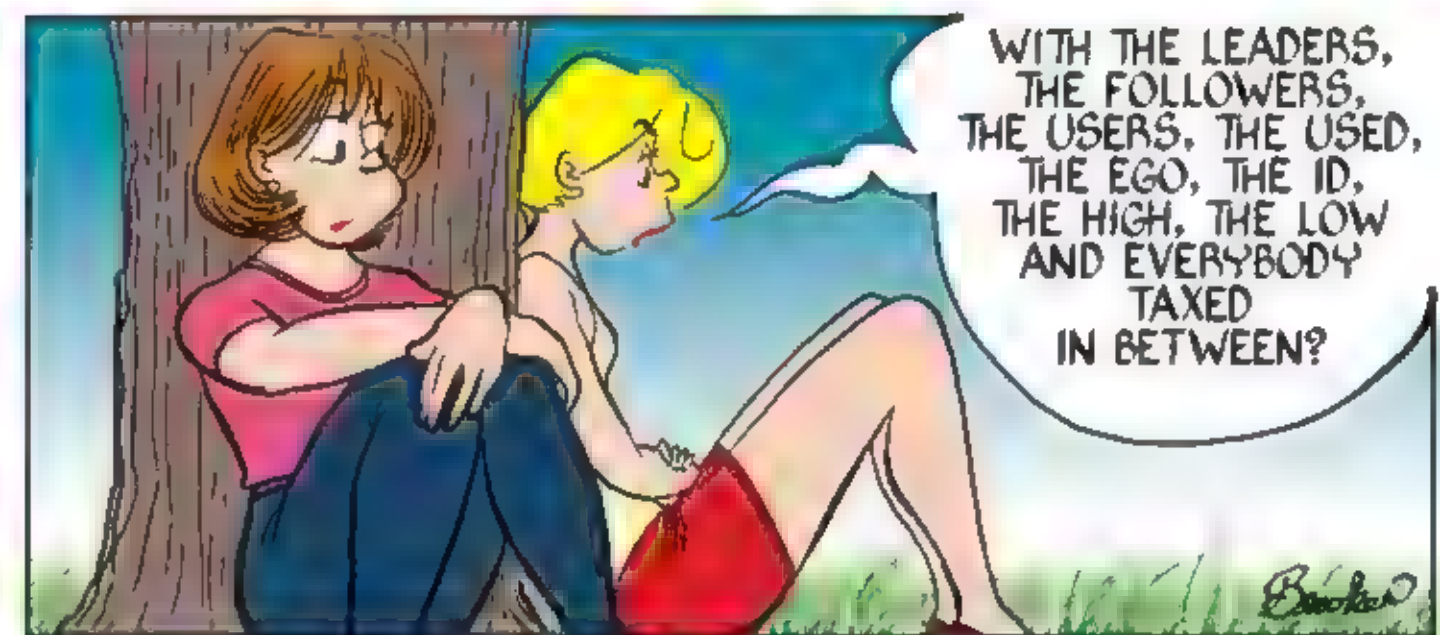
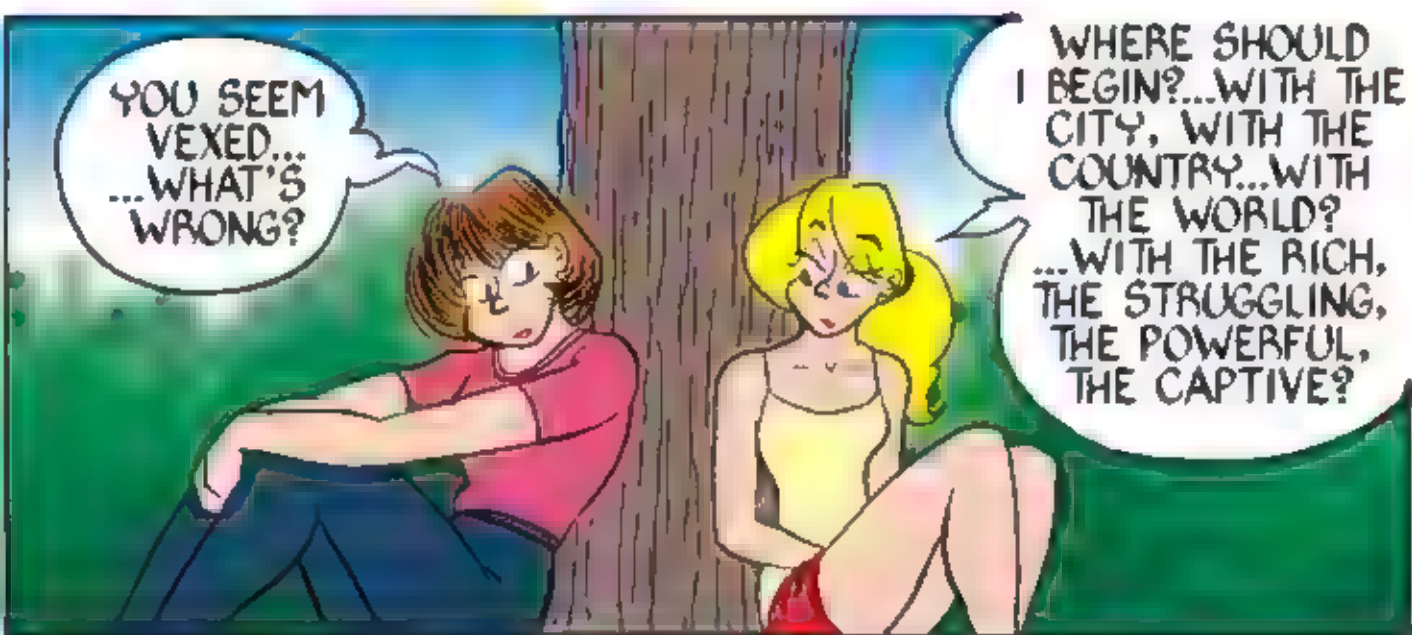
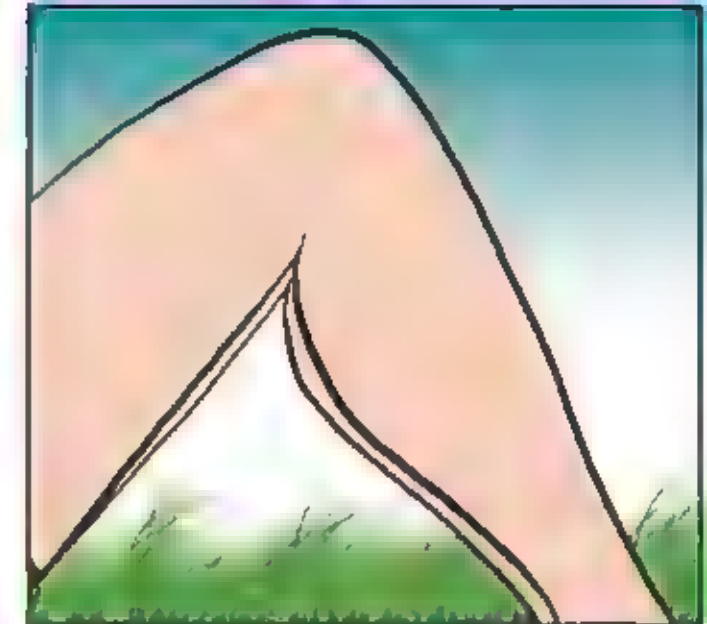
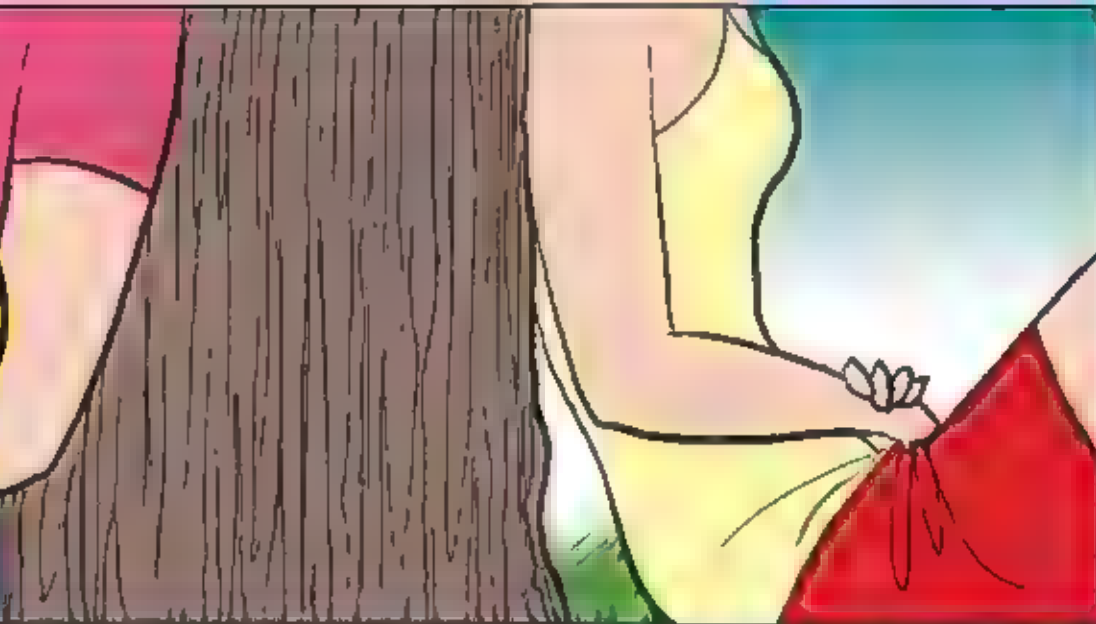
THAT STATEMENT  
IS SCANDALOUS,  
SPURIOUS,  
STUPID AND  
RIDICULOUS!

...AND  
HIGHLY  
ACCURATE.

*Brooks*



# 9 CHICKWEED LANE



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ALL YOU'VE DONE  
SINCE HER RECITAL  
IS PRATTLE ABOUT  
HILARY HAHN'S  
BOW ARM...  
...HILARY HAHN'S  
PHRASING...  
...HILARY HAHN'S  
INTONATION.  
...IF YOU LOVE  
HILARY HAHN  
SO MUCH,  
WHY DON'T  
YOU MARRY  
HER?



*Brackes*



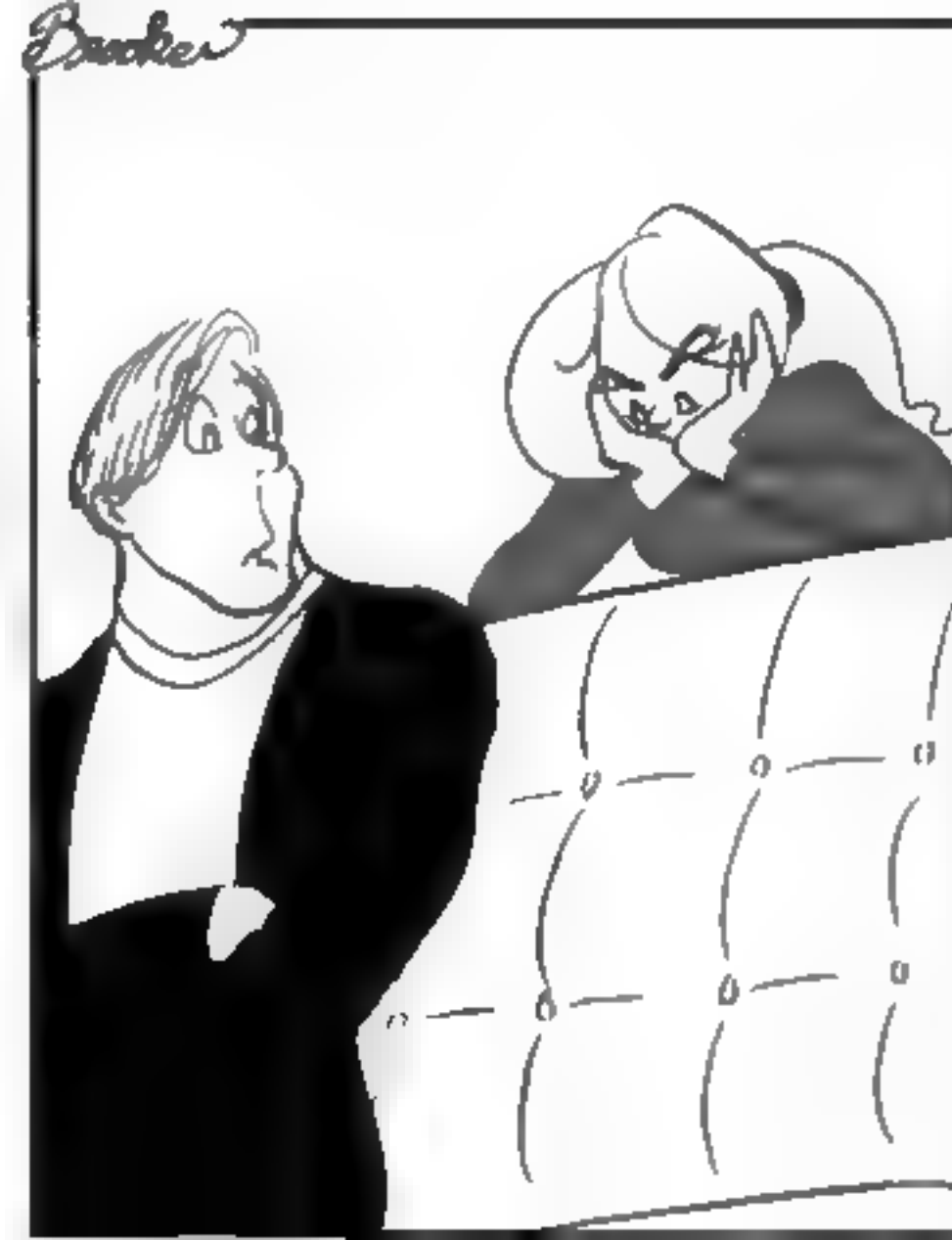
5-5 2008 Brackes M. C. Jewell Dist. by UFS Inc

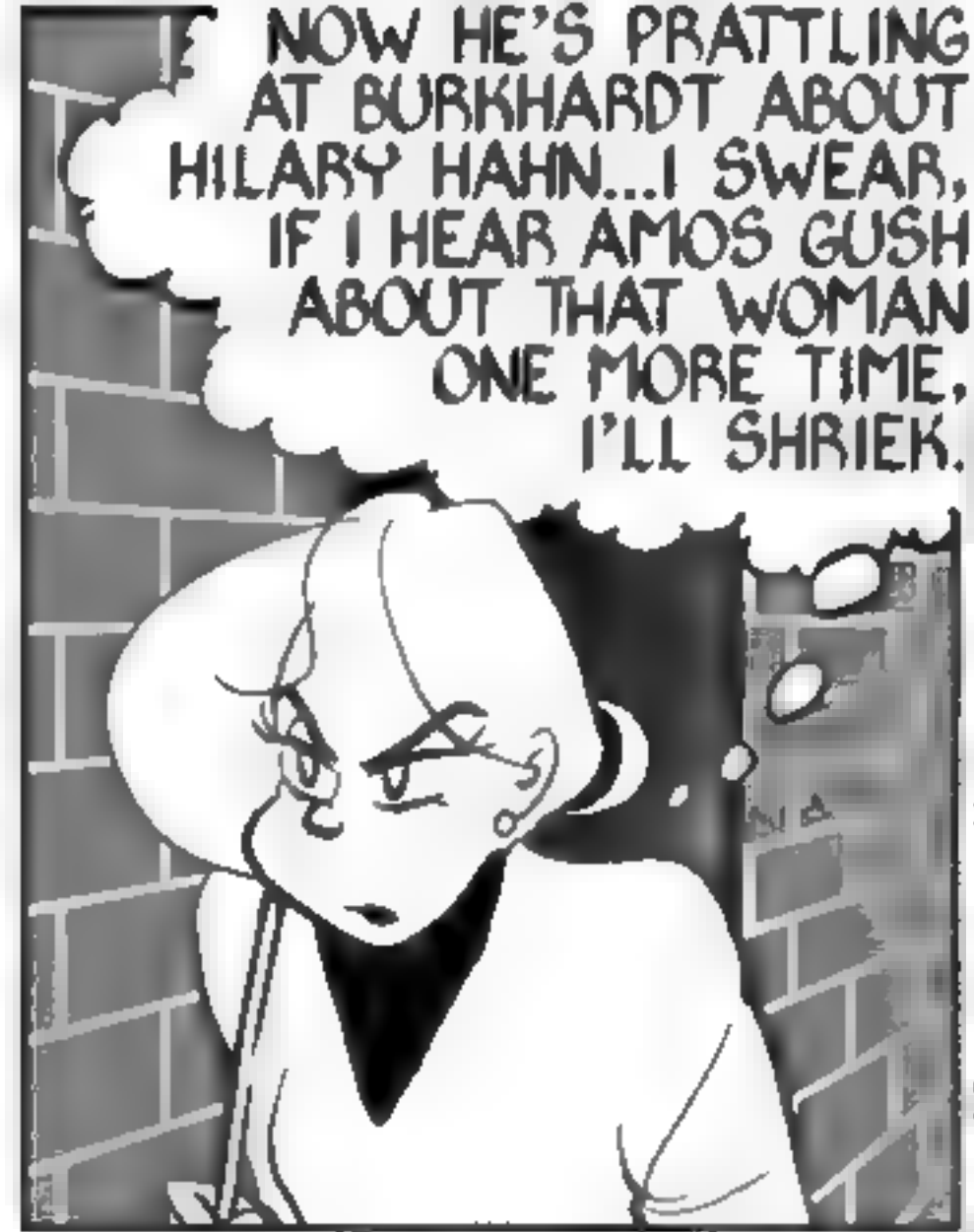
YOU JUST IMAGINED  
YOURSELF MARRIED  
TO HER, DIDN'T YOU?

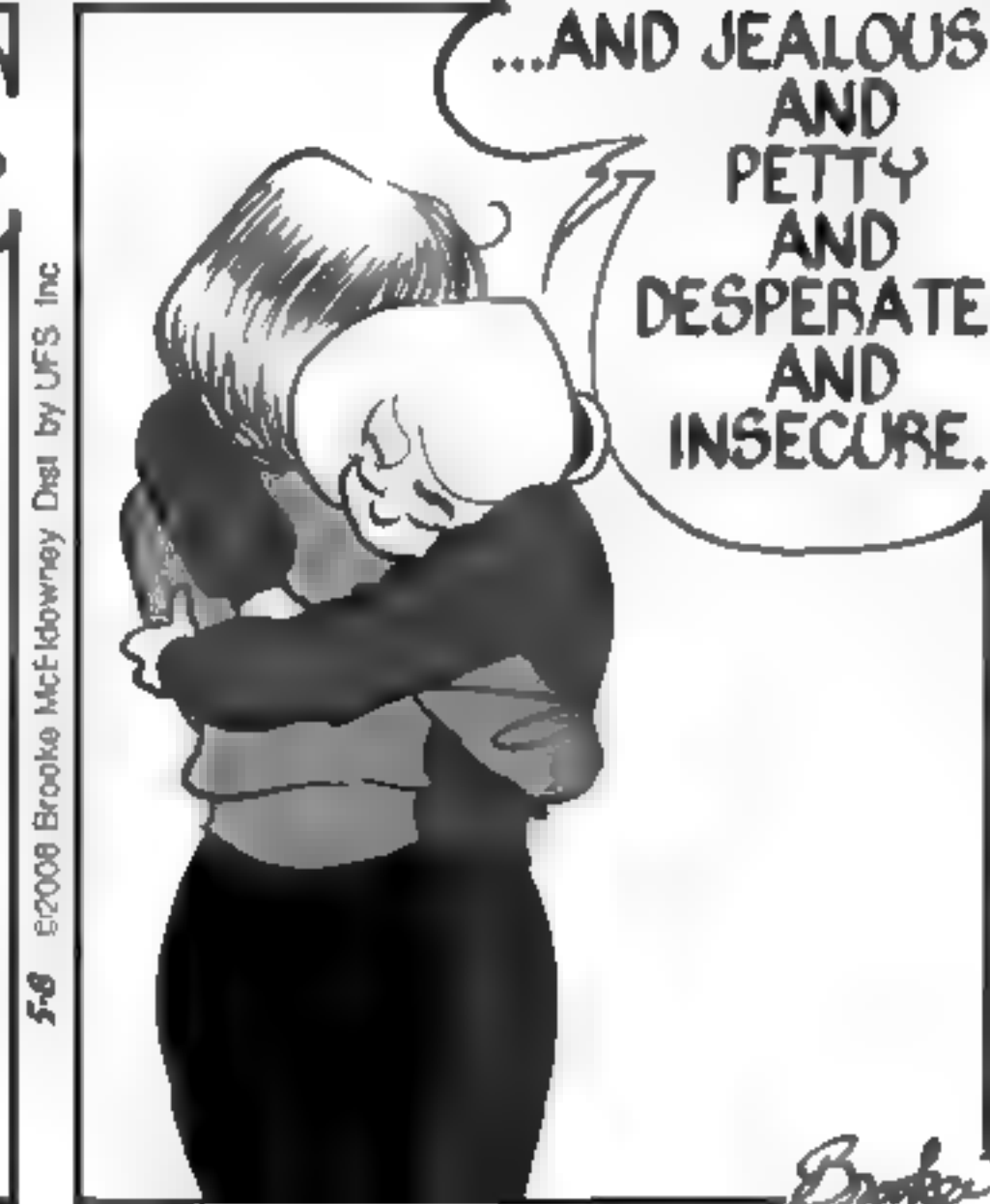
DON'T BE  
ABSURD.

AS HER  
LOVE  
THRALL,  
ACTUALLY.











HONEY, WE ALL GET  
CAUGHT UP IN A  
JEALOUS RAGE  
AT LEAST  
ONCE IN  
OUR  
LIVES,  
IF NOT  
A  
THOU-  
SAND  
TIMES.  
BUT YOU  
HAVE TO  
PULL OUT...  
FACE YOUR  
FEARS.

YOU LOVE AMOS, YOU ALWAYS  
HAVE. HE IS, IF NOTHING ELSE,  
YOUR MOST LOYAL, FASTEST  
FRIEND. THAT ALONE IS A  
REASON YOU MUST ALWAYS  
HAVE FAITH IN HIM AND  
TRUST HIM.



Brooke

I THINK I'VE  
SOAKED YOUR  
ARMPIT WITH  
TEARS.

THAT'S  
ANOTHER  
REASON.



I LOVE AMOS AND  
RESPECT HIM...  
...AND WHEN  
I SEE HIM  
I'M GOING  
TO TELL  
HIM.

THERE'S  
NOTHING  
HE CAN  
SAY THAT  
WILL MAKE  
ME WAVER.



*Brooke*

AMOS...

OH, HEY...  
...I JUST HAD THE  
MOST INTERESTING  
THOUGHT ABOUT  
HILARY  
HAHN...

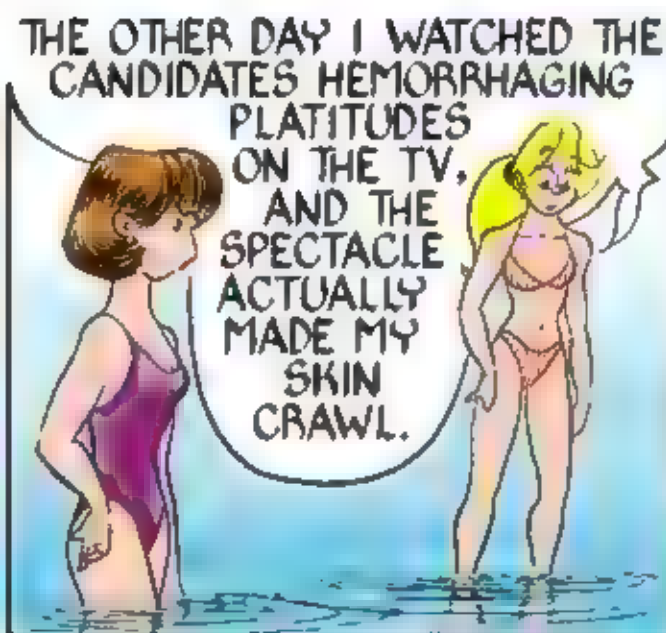
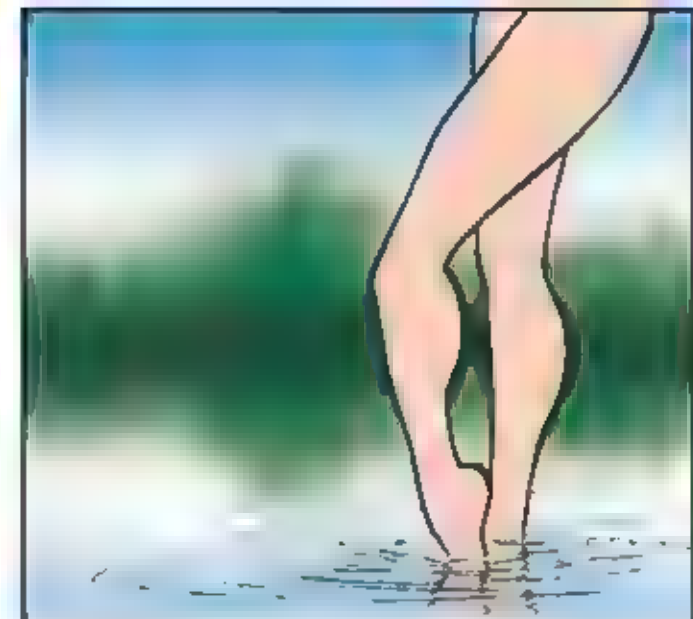


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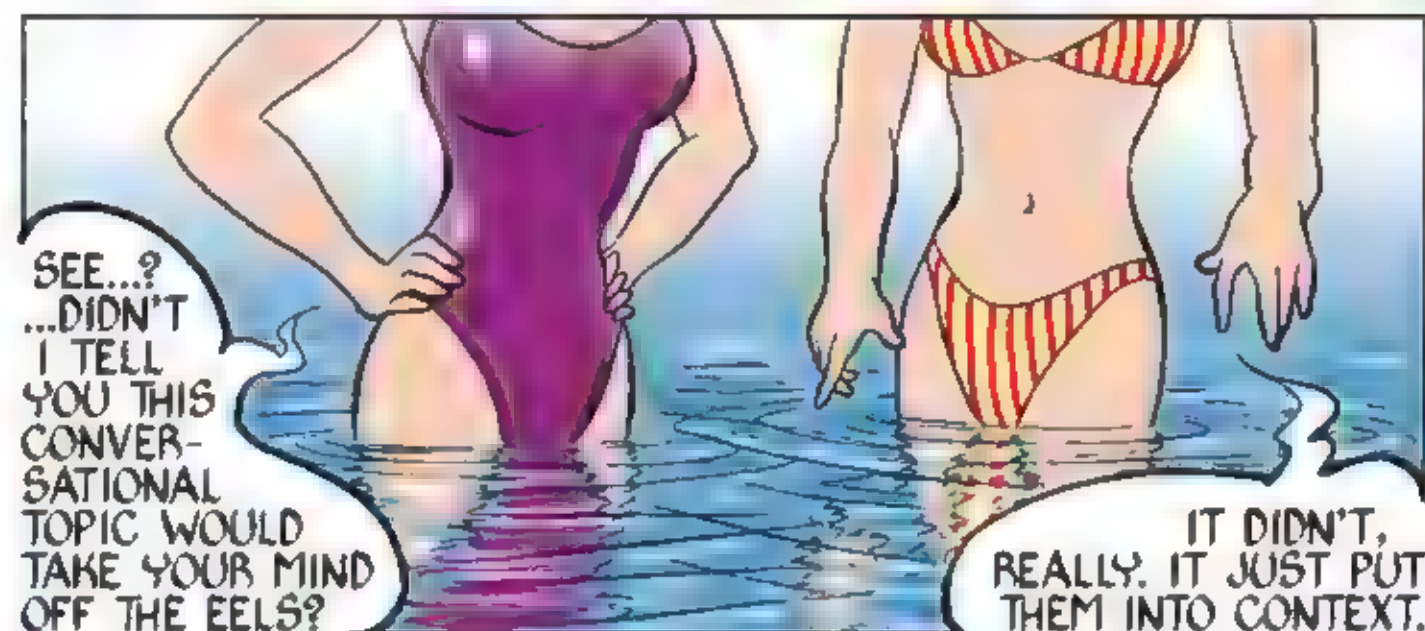
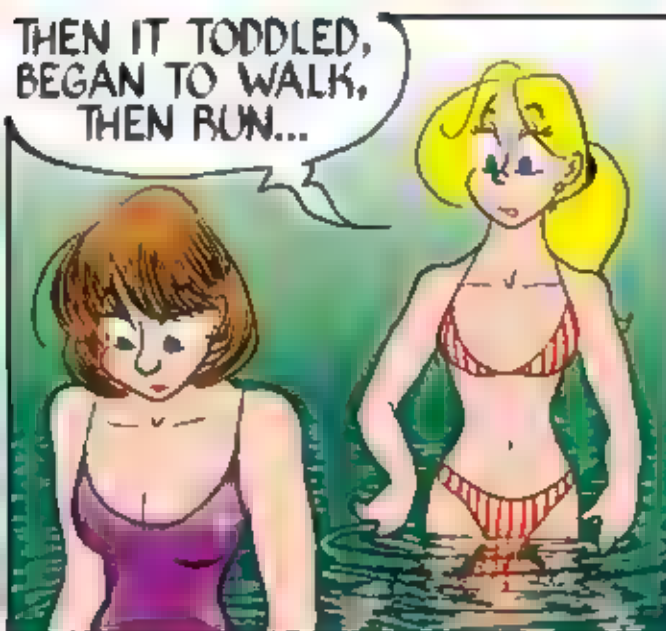
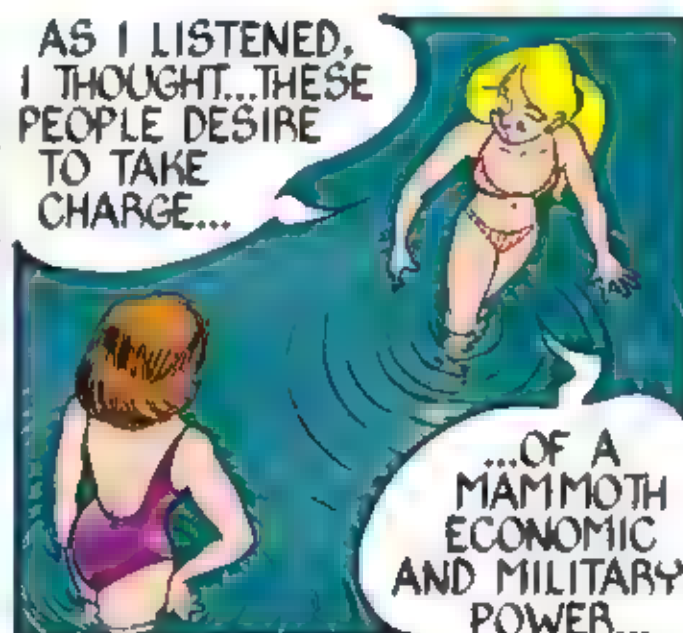
EXCEPT  
THAT.



# 9 CHICKWEED LANE



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I DON'T GET IT...  
...SHE JUST PUSHED ME  
OVER, WITHOUT  
PROVOCATION.



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LET ME ASK YOU...  
HOW MANY TIMES SINCE  
HER RECITAL HAVE YOU  
SPOKEN HILARY HAHN'S  
NAME IN FRONT OF EDDA?



*Brooke*



YOU  
WOULDN'T  
HAPPEN  
TO HAVE A  
CALCULATOR...



OH,  
LORDY.

THE RECITAL WAS  
EPIPHANIC...HILARY  
HAHN IS NOTHING SHORT  
OF MAGNIFICENT.  
BEYOND BEING  
AN EXTRAORDINARY  
VIOLINIST, SHE  
IS A DEEPLY  
THOUGHTFUL  
MUSICIAN.  
SHE EVOLVES  
LEVELS OF  
PASSION  
HITHERTO  
UNREALIZED...  
...HER PLAYING  
IS, QUITE SIMPLY...



Brooke

EXCUSE  
ME...



DID  
YOU  
TALK  
TO  
AMOS?

I DID...  
.....NOW  
I'M  
JEALOUS.

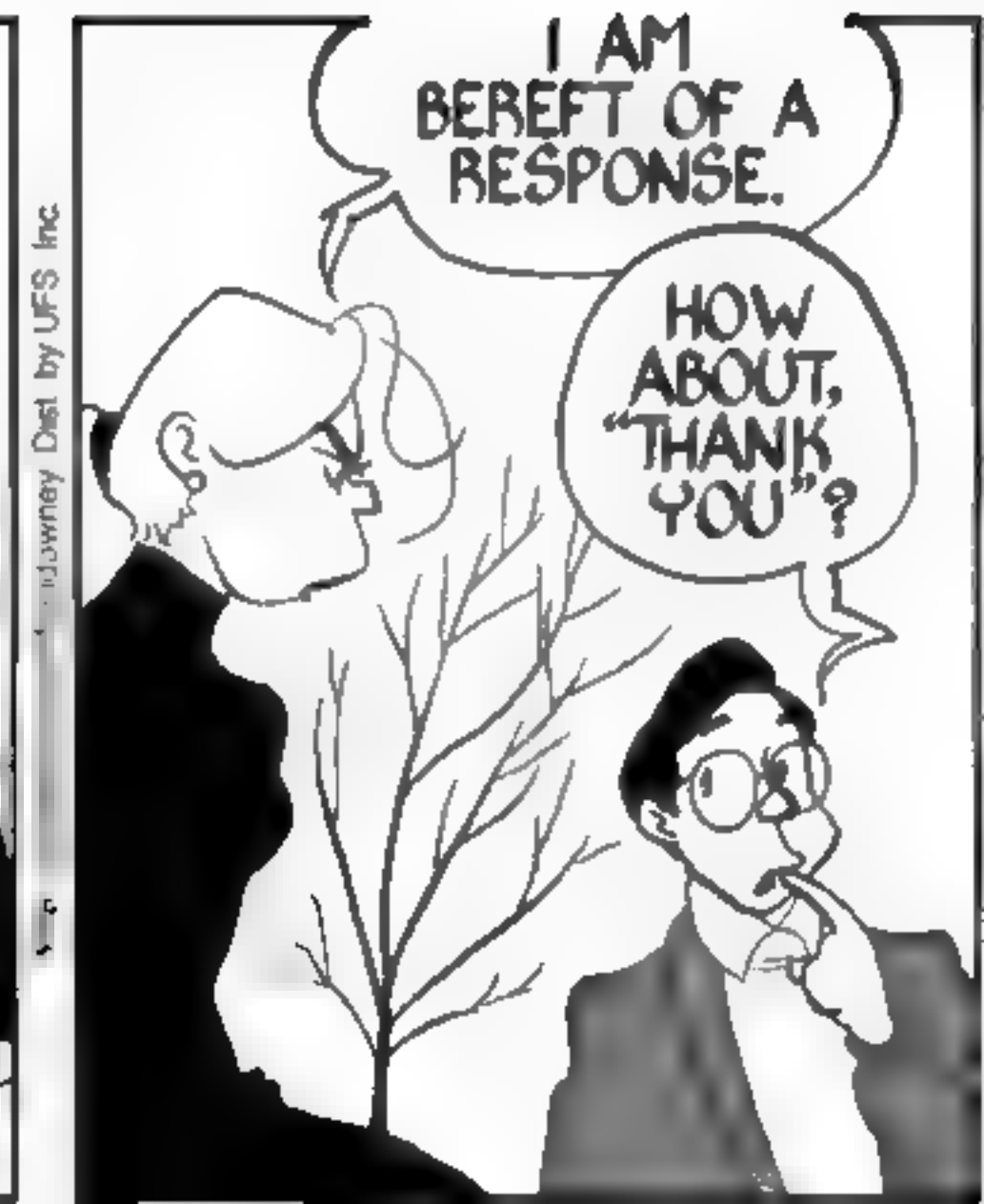


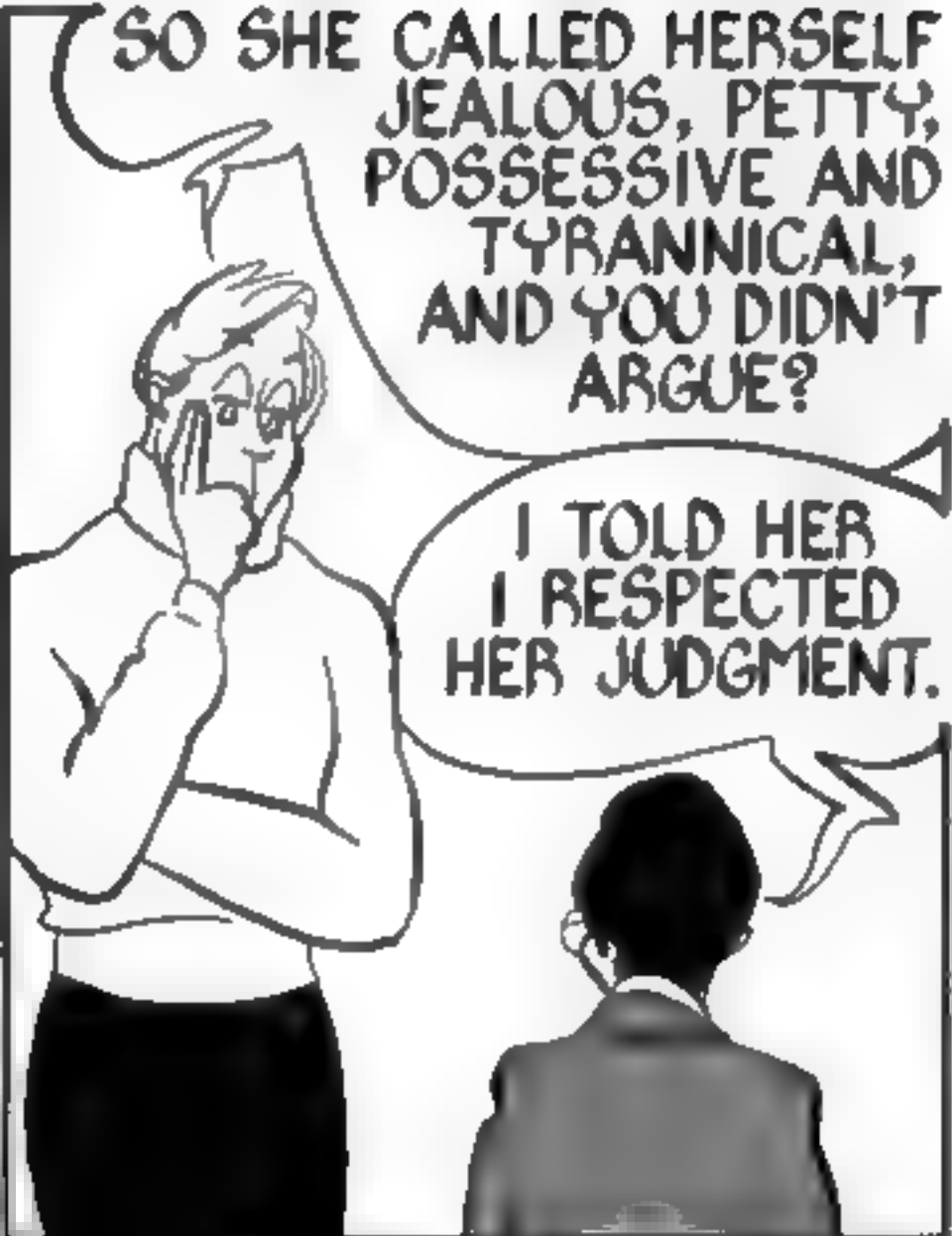




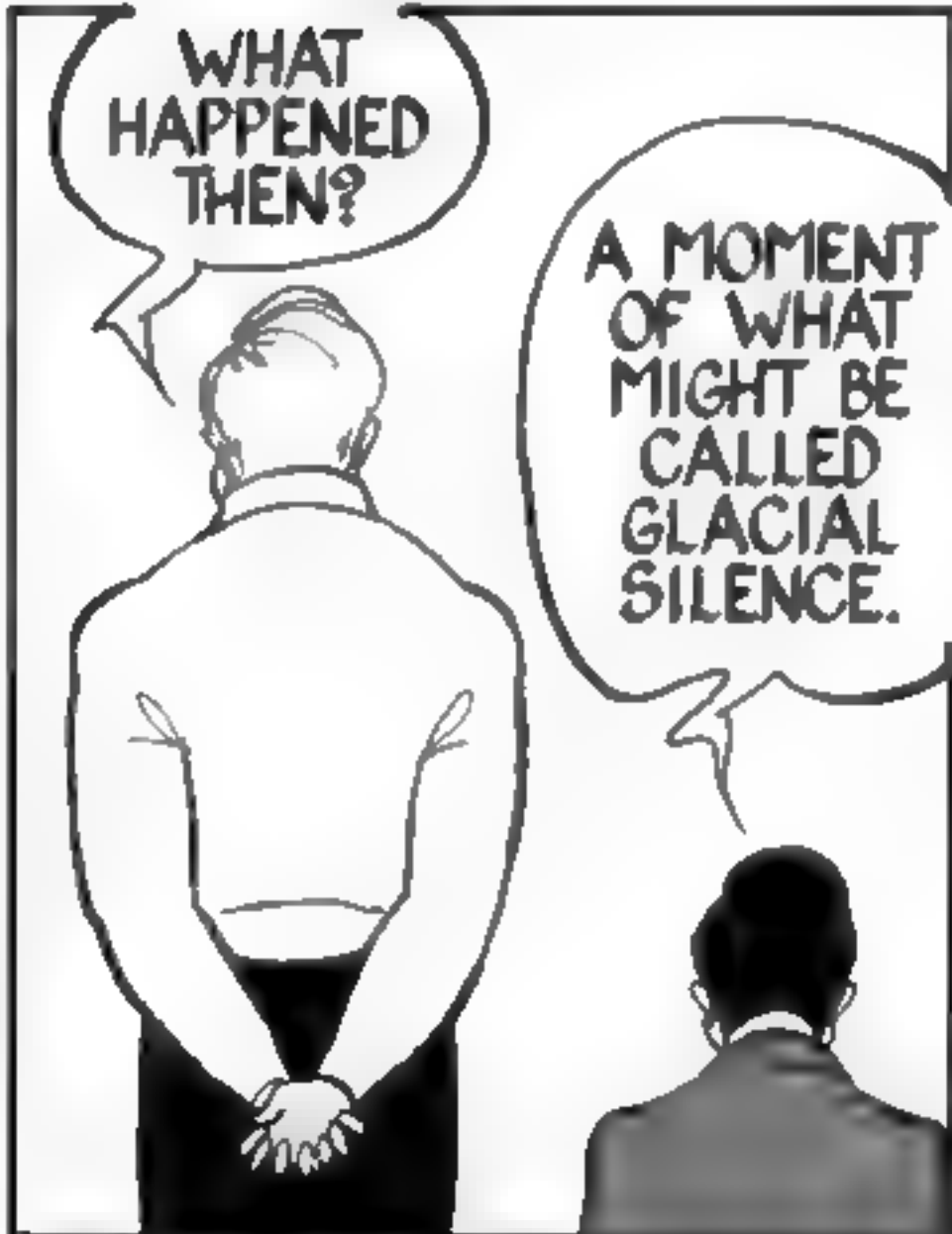
I'M ASHAMED OF MYSELF.  
I'VE BEHAVED TOWARD YOU  
IN A WAY THAT WAS PETTY,  
JEALOUS, POSSESSIVE  
AND TYRANNICAL.  
...NOW PLEASE DON'T  
ARGUE.



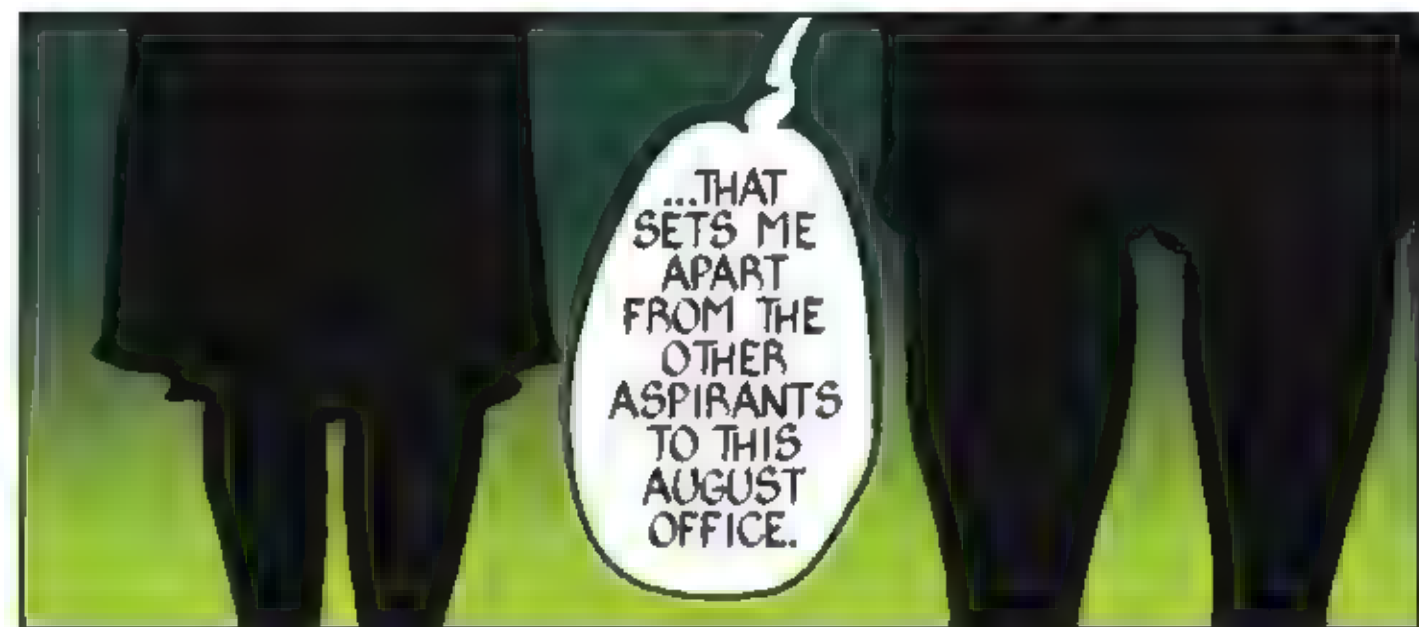
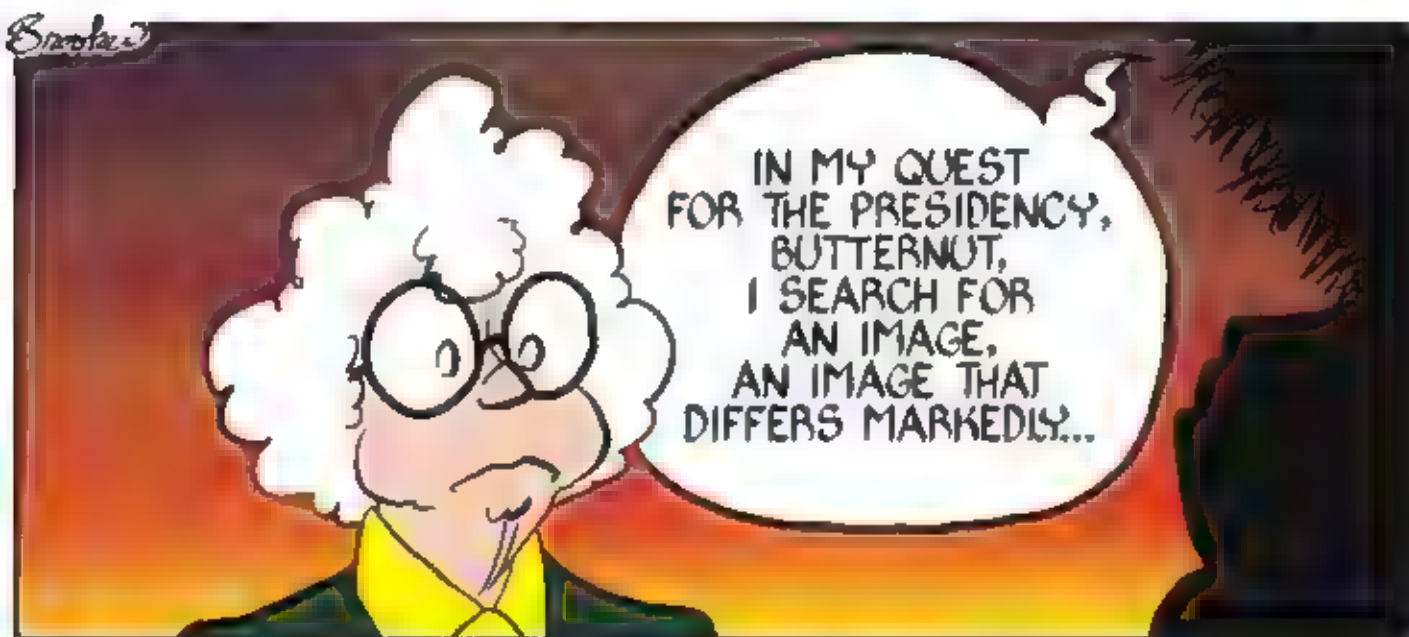
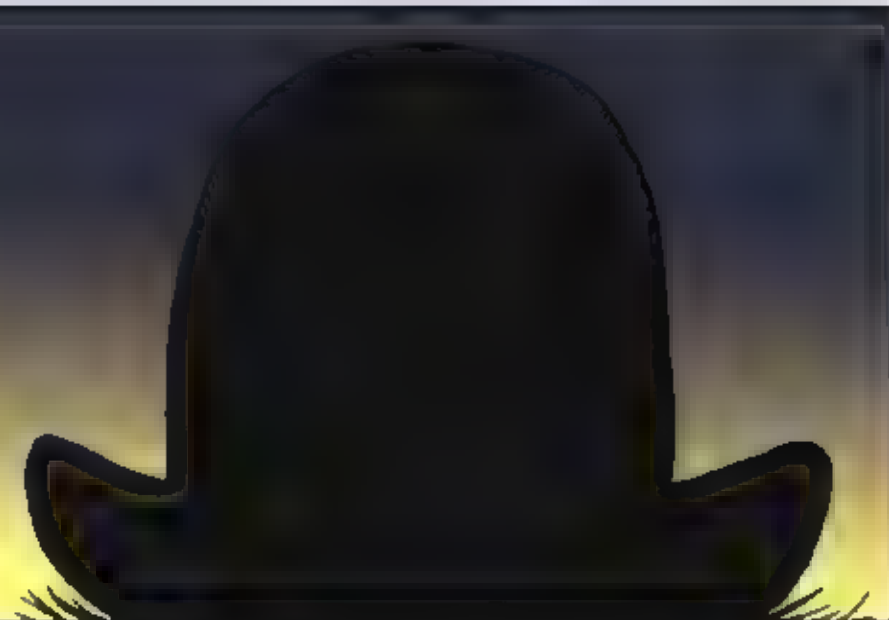




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UM...EDDA...  
I'VE BEEN  
THINKING...  
...AND  
PERHAPS...

...WE SHOULD  
STOP SEEING  
EACH OTHER...?  
...JUST FOR  
A WHILE?  
I WAS JUST  
HAVING THE  
SAME THOUGHT.  
YOU HAVE THE  
BEST JUDGMENT  
IN THESE  
THINGS.

I WAS GOING TO  
SUGGEST WE GET  
ICE CREAM AND  
FORGET THE  
PAST.

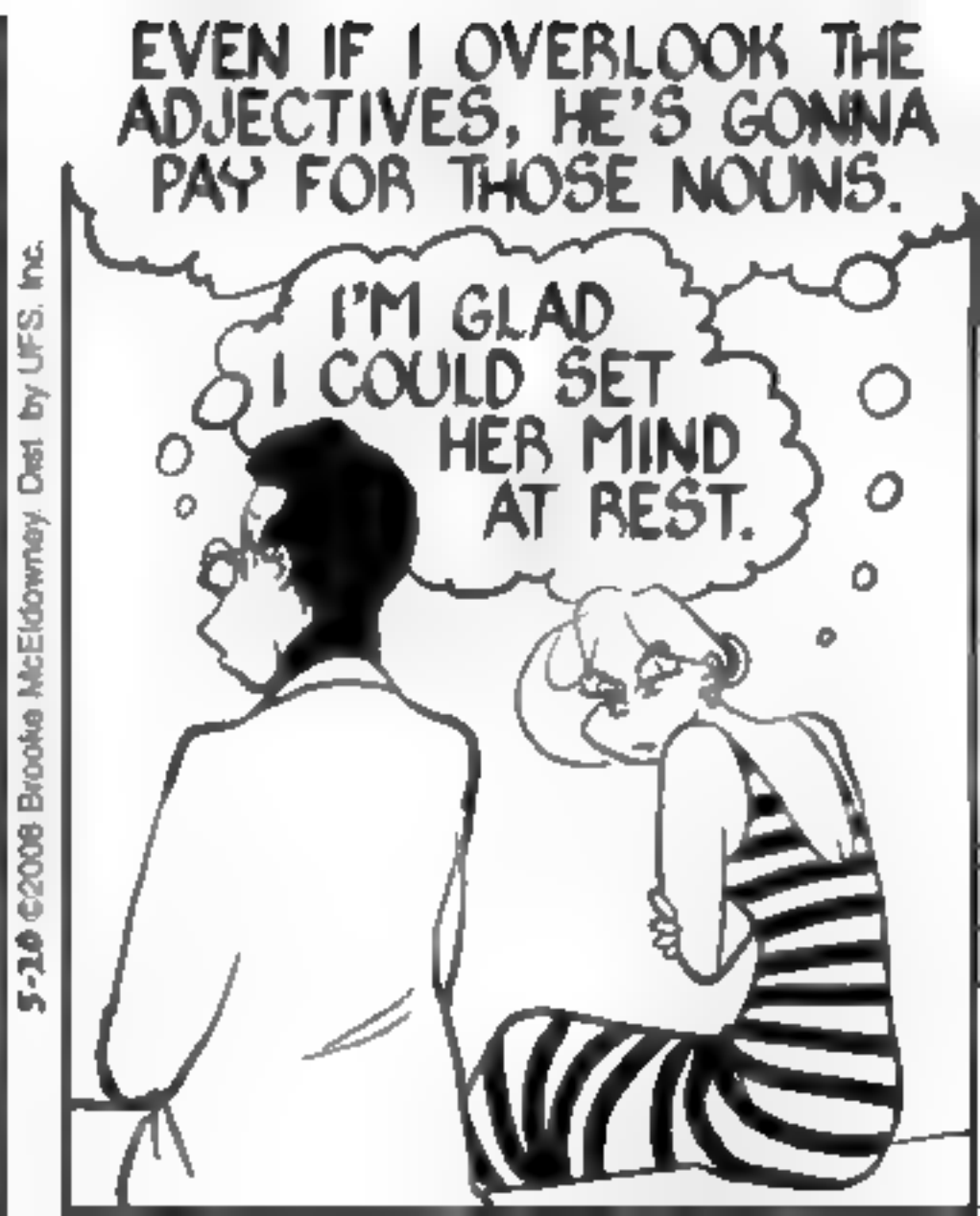
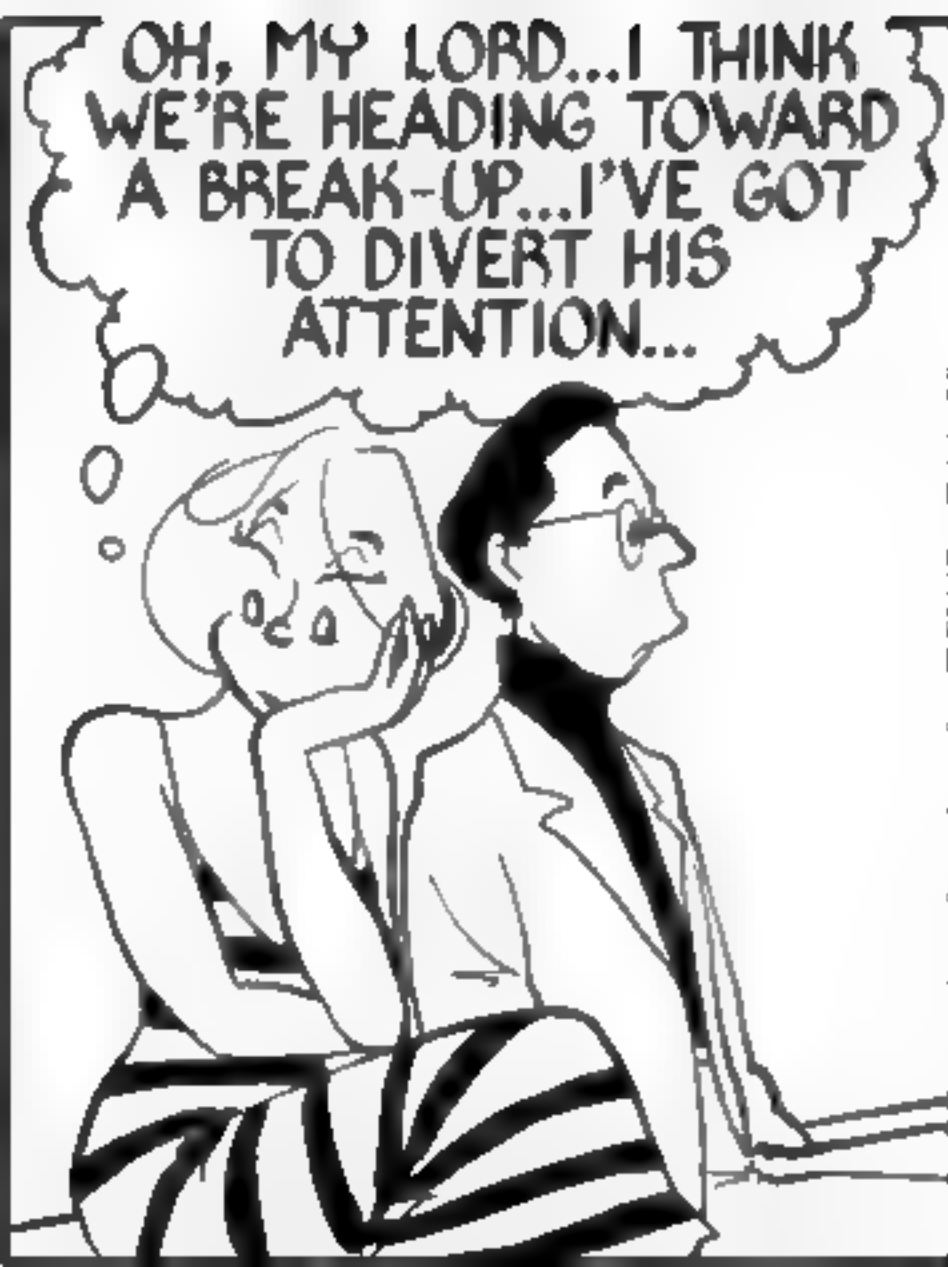
HE  
COULD HAVE  
SUGGESTED  
WE JUST  
GET  
ICE  
CREAM.

BUT NOW I HAVE A  
REPUTATION TO MAINTAIN.

IDiot.

Brooke

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ALL I WAS TRYING TO DO  
WAS BUY US ICE CREAM!  
YOU TURNED IT INTO A  
BREAK-UP!



I THOUGHT YOU WANTED  
TO BREAK UP! I DON'T  
WANT TO...I DON'T EVEN  
WANT TO LOOK AT OTHER  
PEOPLE!



NEITHER  
DO I!

SUITS  
ME!

FINE!

FINE!



AND JUST  
FOR YOUR  
INFORMATION,  
THAT MOMENT  
SHOULD HAVE  
BEEN WARMER!

BUY  
A  
HEAT  
PAD!



EDDA, I FEEL THAT IF WE ARE TO PRESERVE A FRIENDSHIP, IT MUST BE BUILT OF TRUST AND HONESTY. OUR CARDS MUST ALWAYS BE ON THE TABLE: YOUR PROBLEM IS YOU ARE INSECURE AND JEALOUS.



AND YOUR FLAW, AMOS, IS THAT YOU ARE OBSESSIVE AND EASILY INFATUATED.



I feel we've cleared the air.

SO DO I.

Brooke



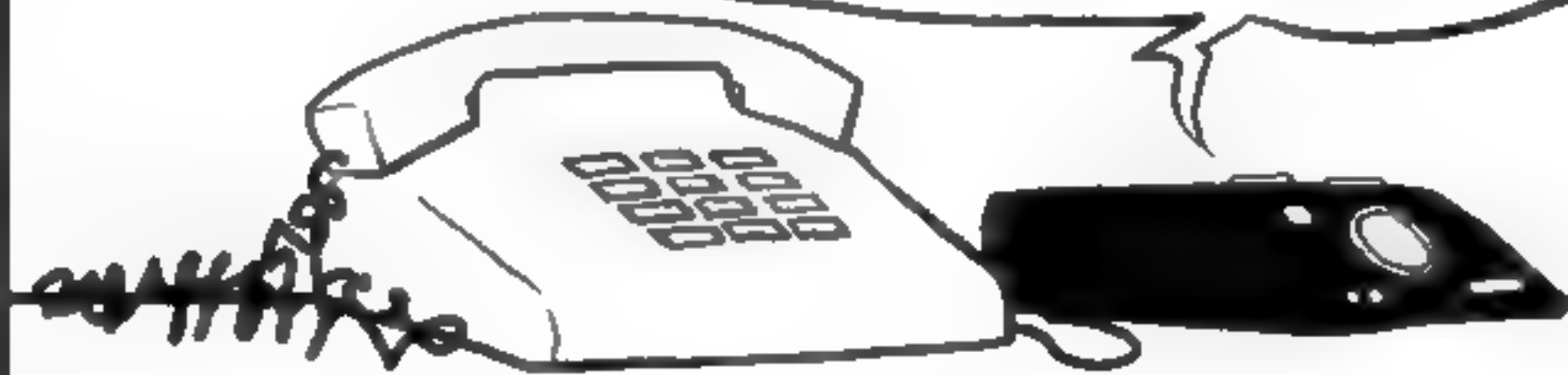
PLEASE, SETH, JUST LEAVE ME...

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...ALONE.

I CAN'T GET TO THE PHONE RIGHT NOW...  
...I'M PROBABLY PRACTICING, OR IN THE SHOWER,  
OR COMPLETING A HARMONIC ANALYSIS FOR  
THEORY CLASS...OR I COULD BE ASLEEP, OR  
VERY POSSIBLY WALKING TO OR FROM JUILLIARD,  
OR PREOCCUPIED IN A HOST OF WAYS THAT  
MAY INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT  
LIMITED TO...



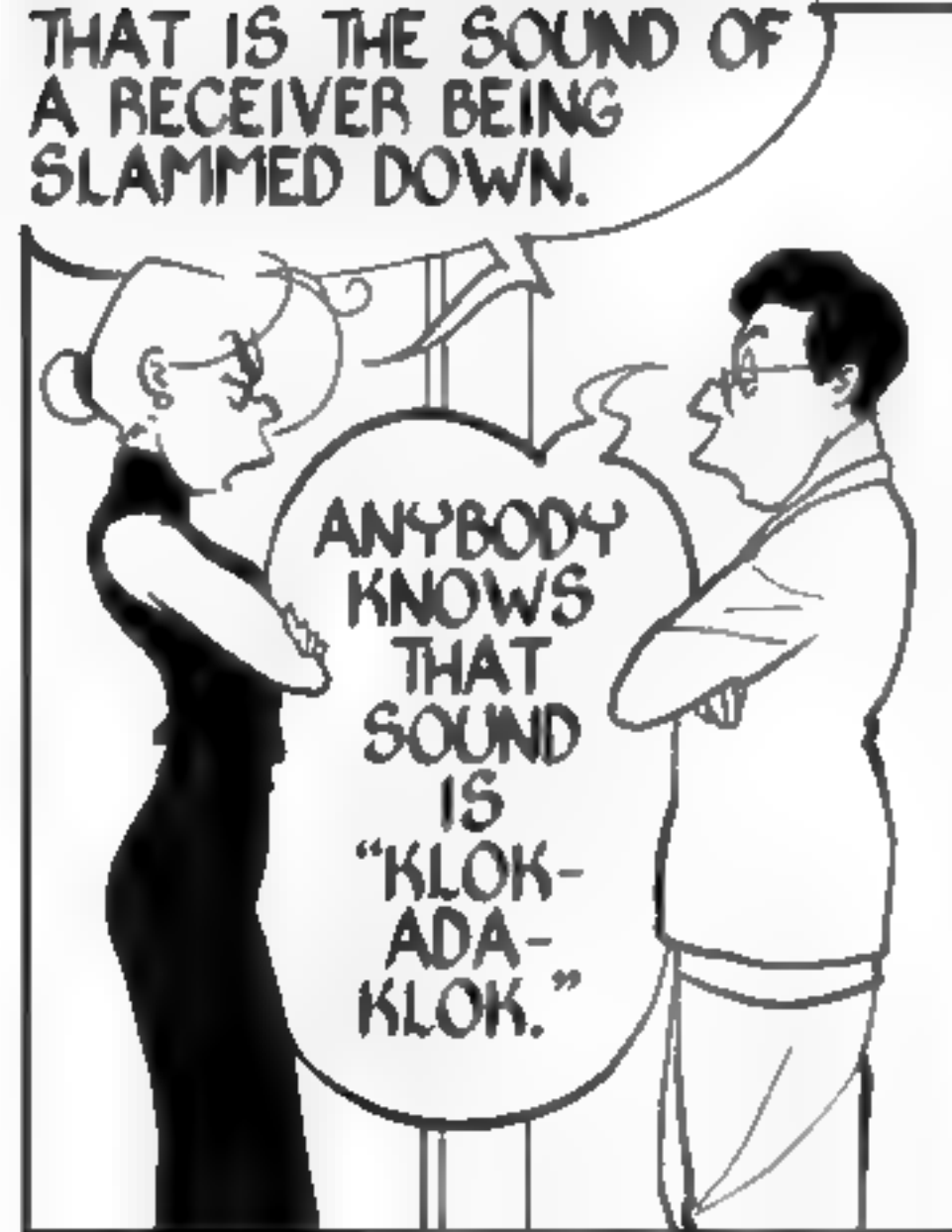
SETH...  
...THAT PIECE OF  
MY MIND I SAID  
I WAS GOING  
TO GIVE AMOS...  
...CAN YOU RECALL  
WHAT IT WAS?





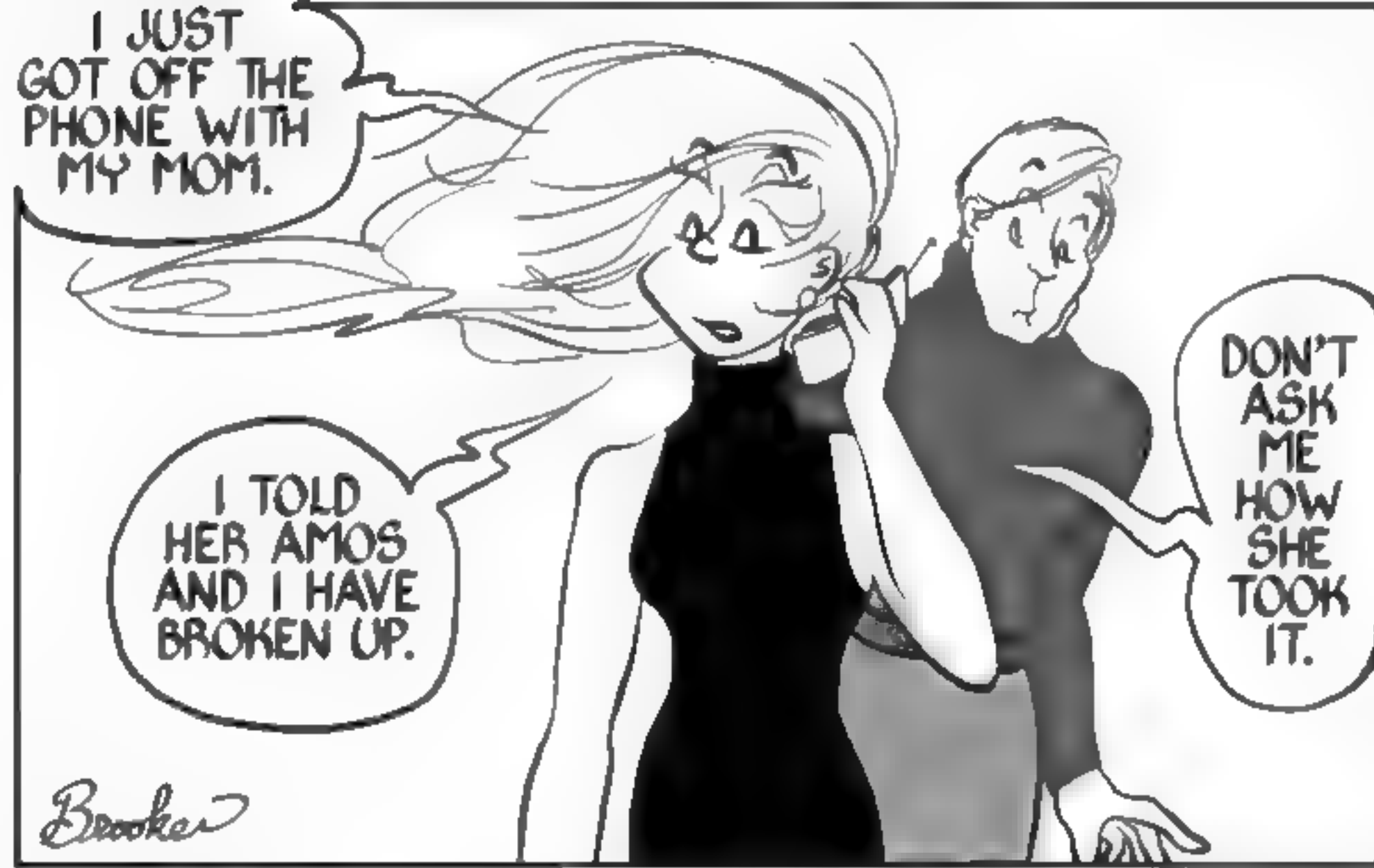






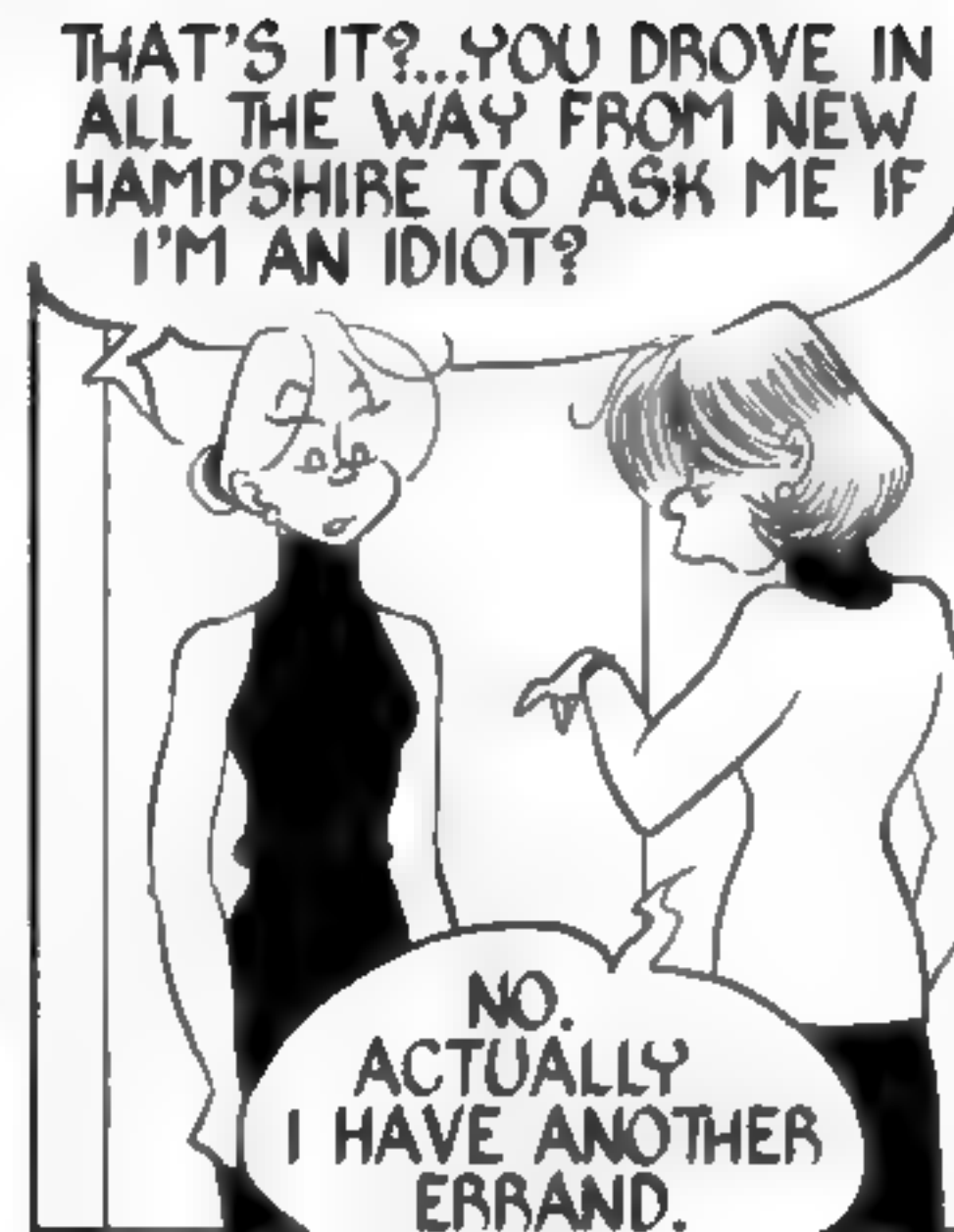
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EDDA, YOUR MOM'S  
HERE ASKING ME  
IF I'M AN  
IDIOT.



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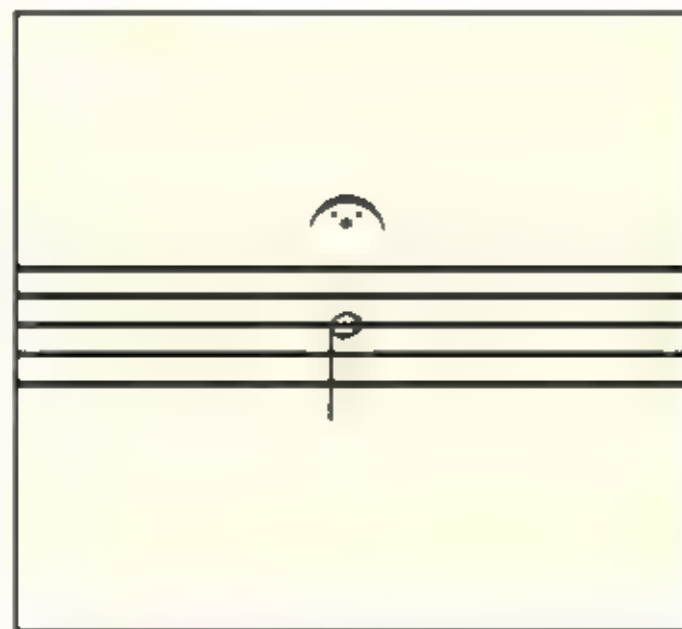
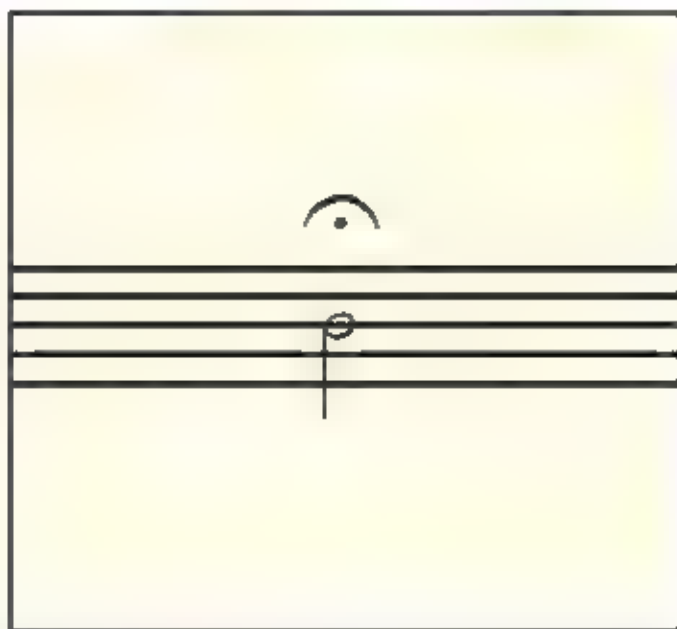
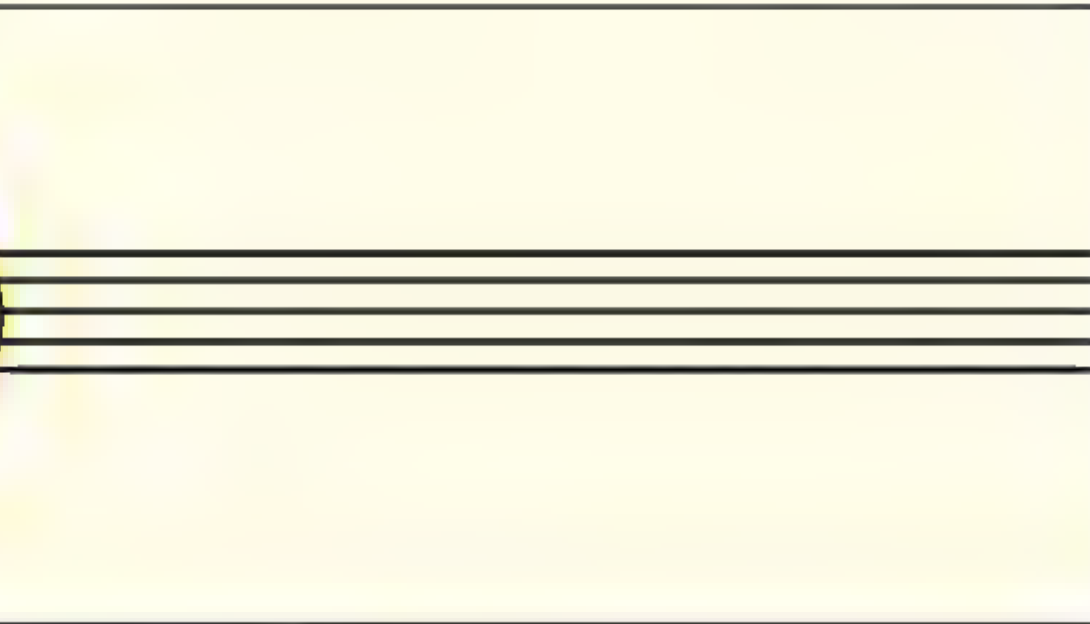


EDDA  
SAYS  
TO SAY  
YES.



*Brooke*





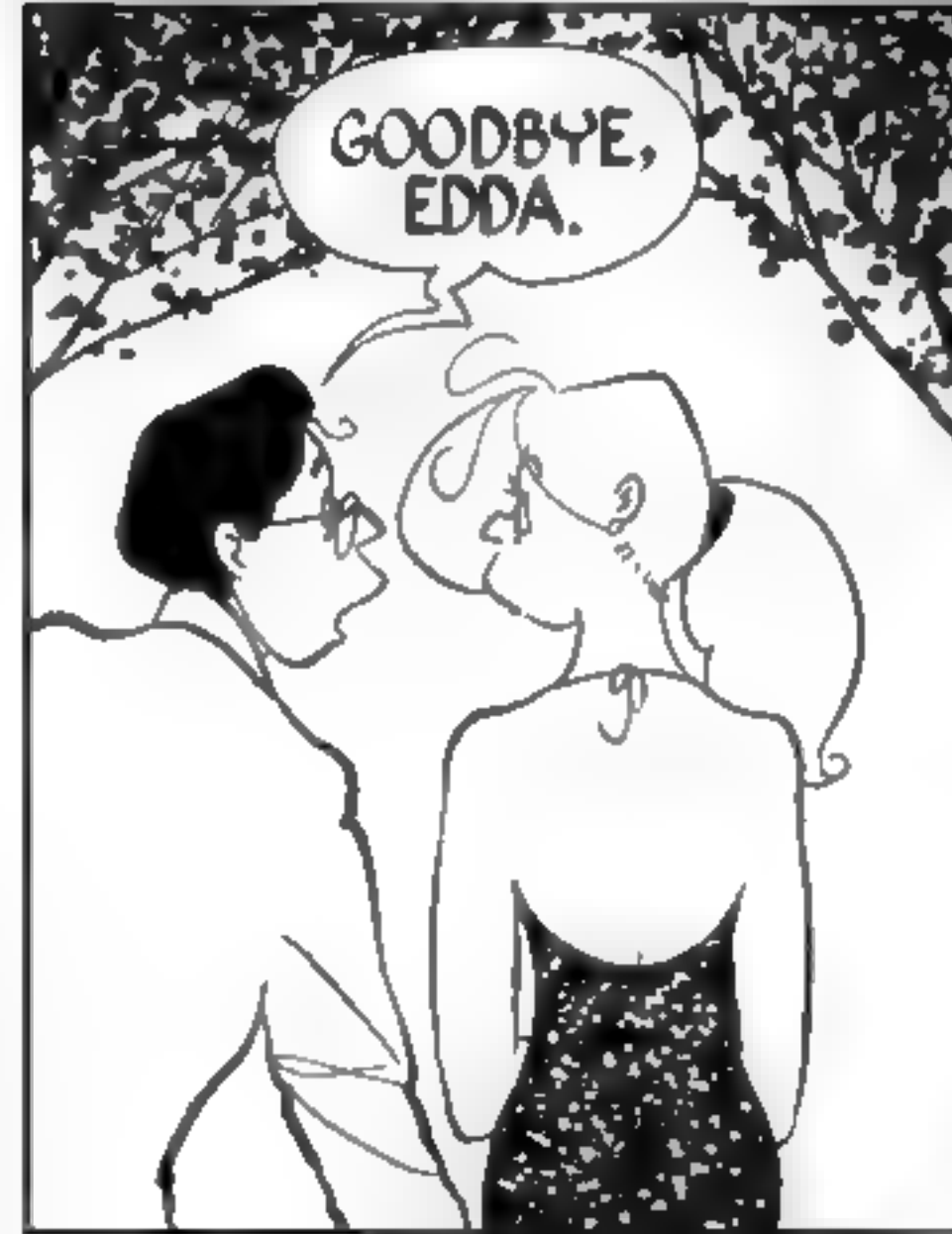
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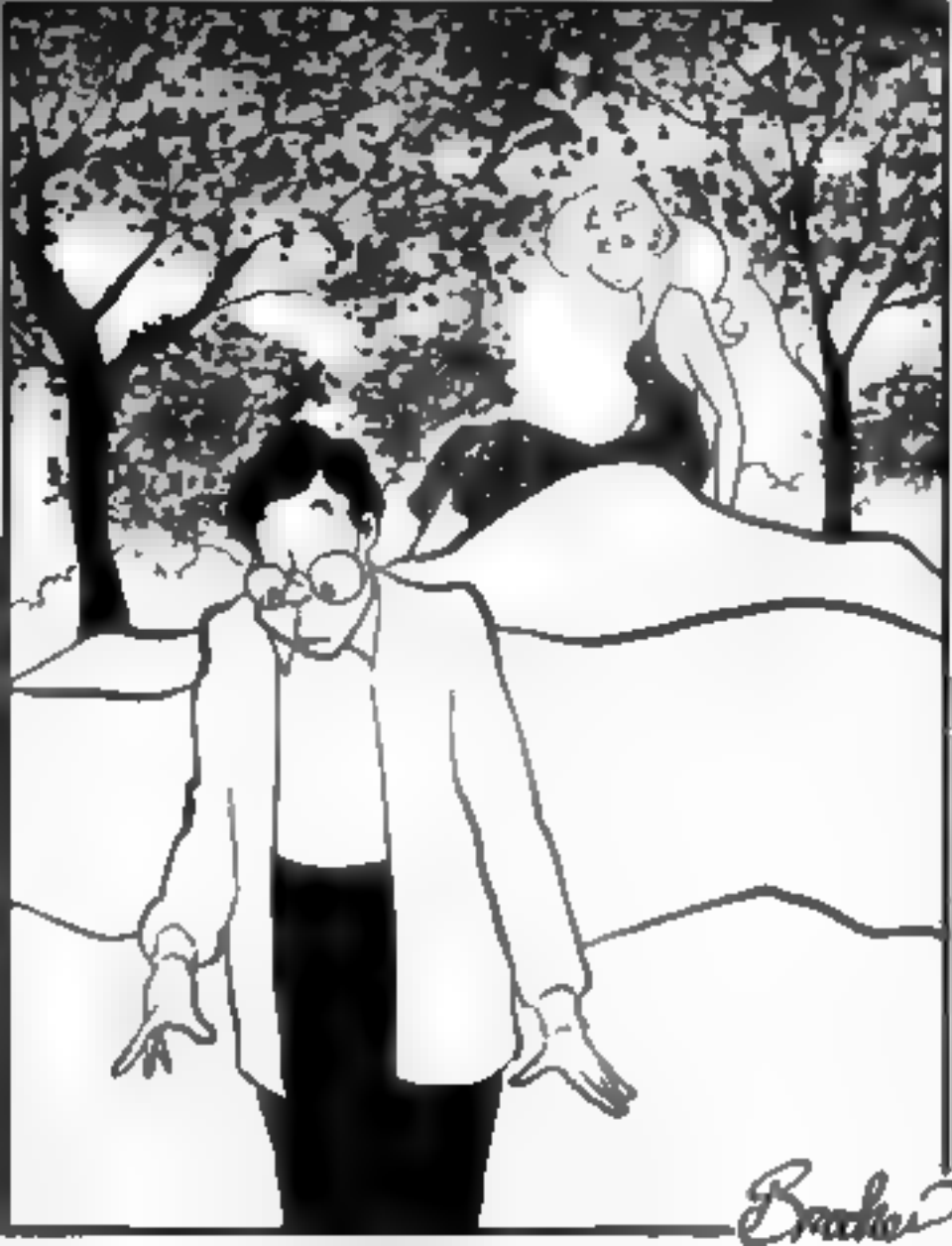
THE LAST TIME A RIFT GREW  
BETWEEN US, I TURNED MY  
BACK ON YOU AT LINCOLN  
CENTER. I DON'T WANT TO  
DO THAT AGAIN, BUT WE'RE  
AT AN IMPASSE. HAVE YOU  
ANYTHING TO ADD?



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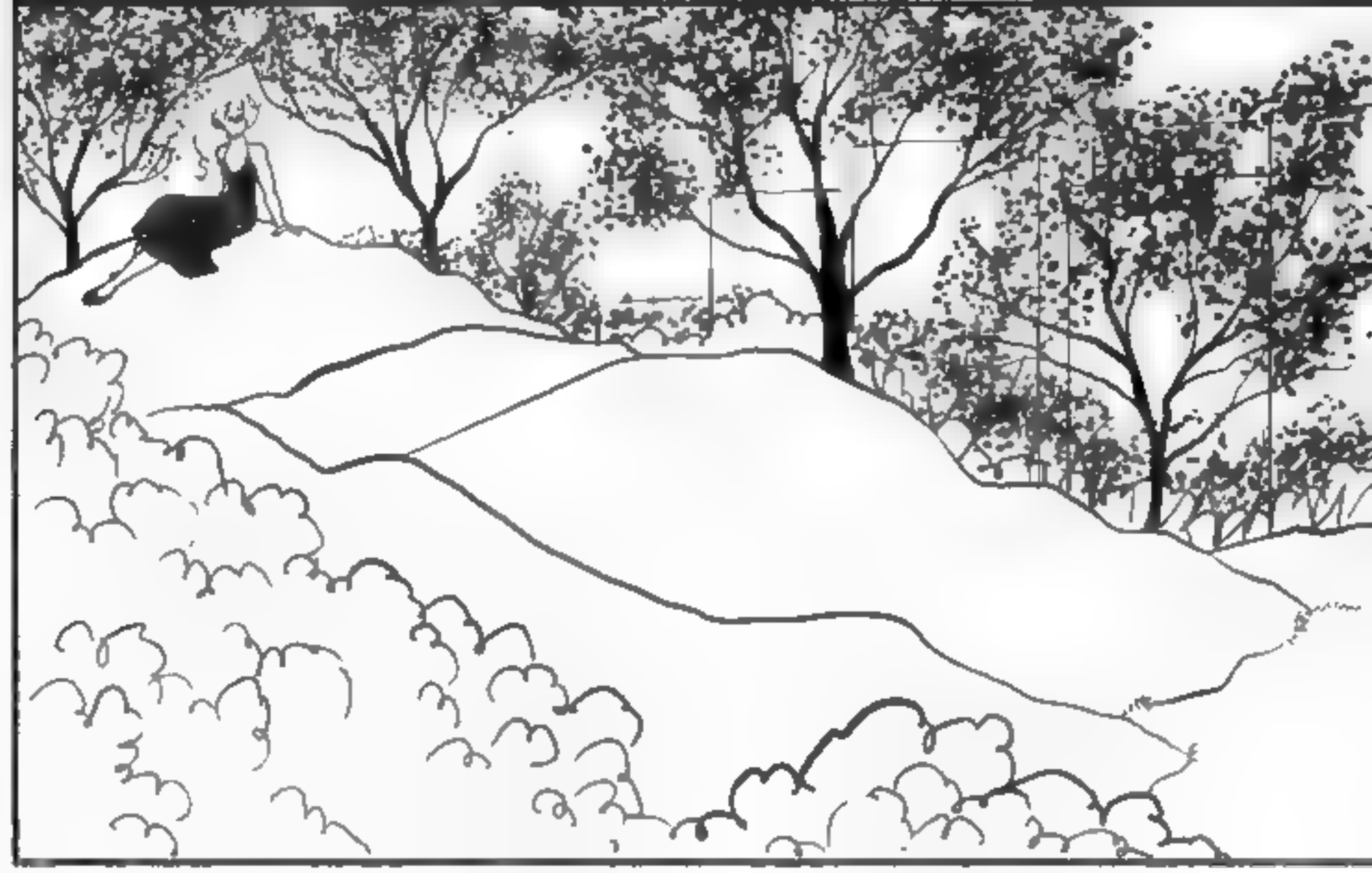
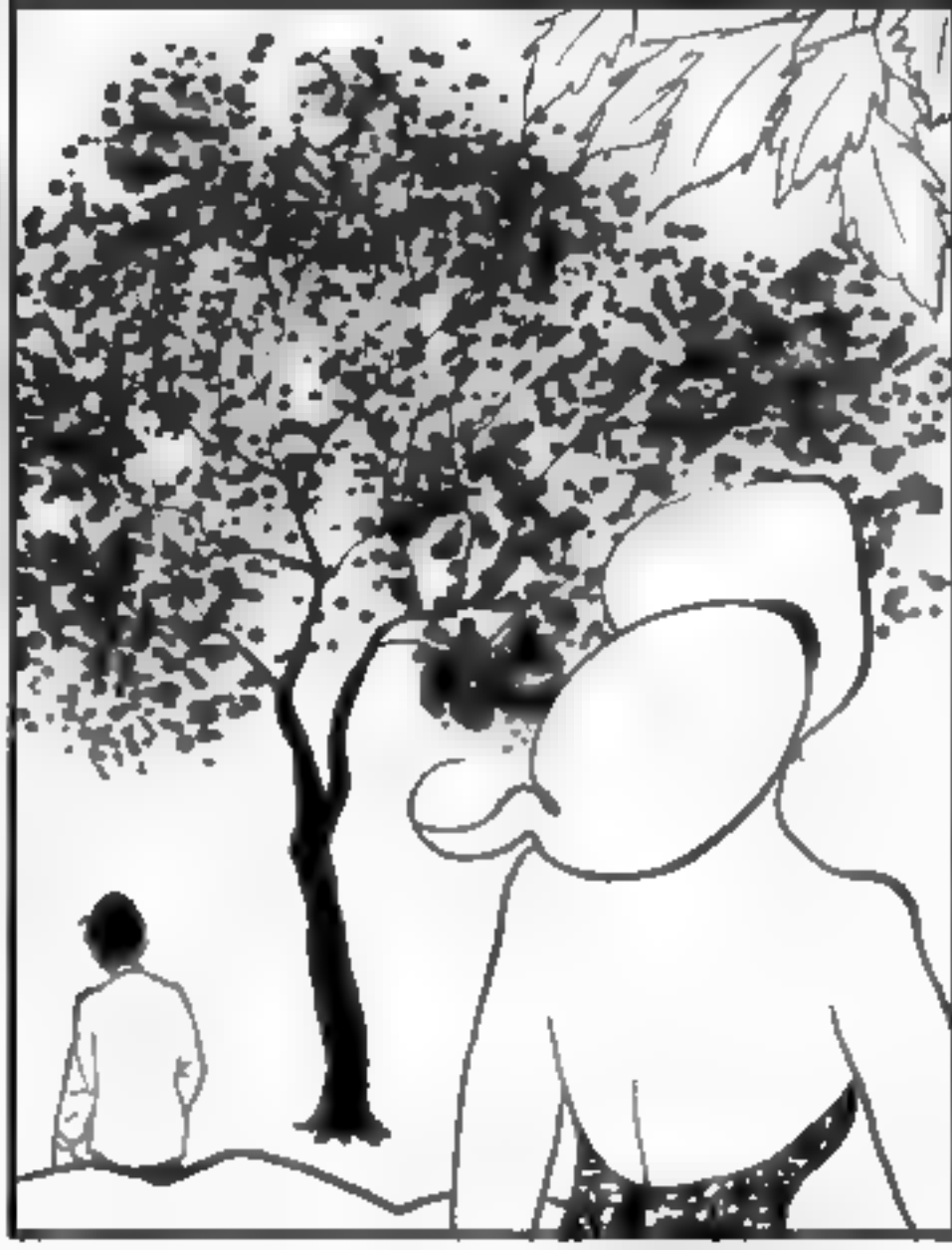






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Brooke





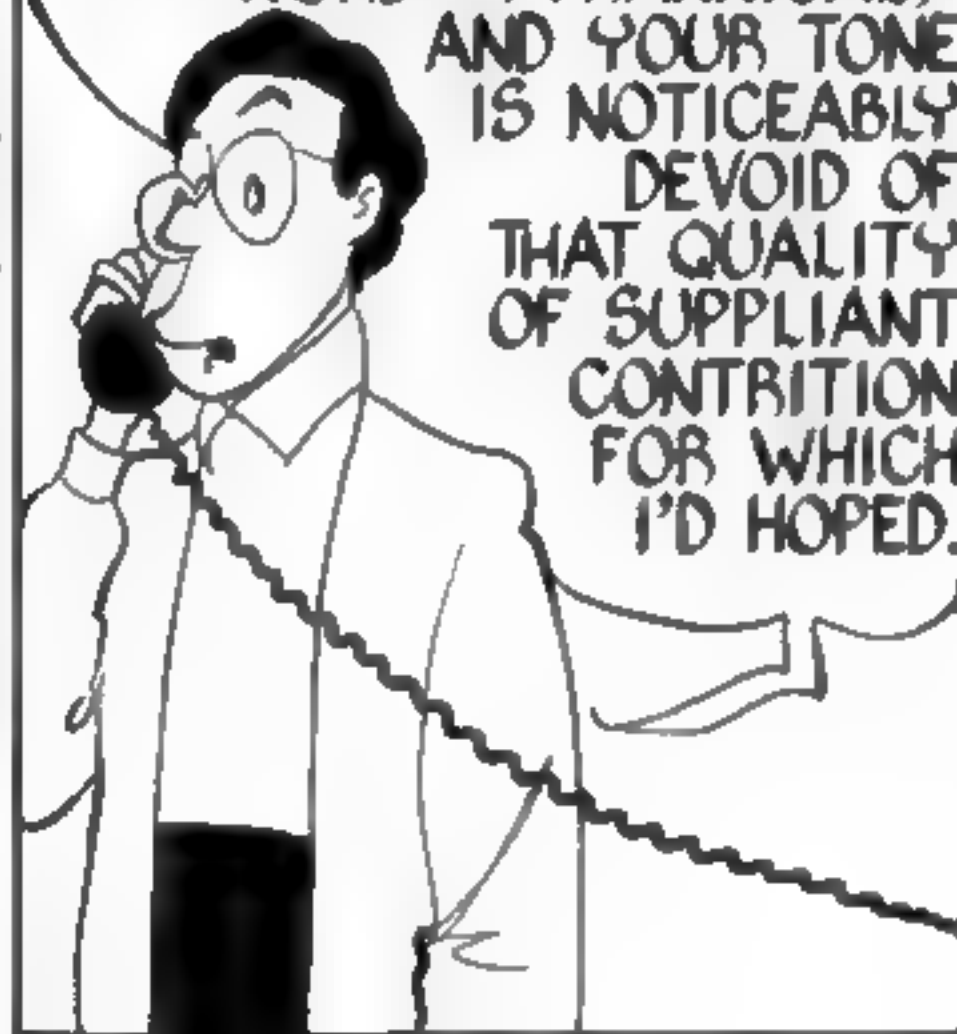


AMOS, I'M CALLING  
TO TELL YOU  
I'VE BEEN  
STUPID.



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YES THAT'S TRUE - BUT  
I DIDN'T HEAR YOU USE THE  
WORD "TYRANNICAL,"  
AND YOUR TONE  
IS NOTICEABLY  
DEVOID OF  
THAT QUALITY  
OF SUPPLIANT  
CONTRITION  
FOR WHICH  
I'D HOPED.

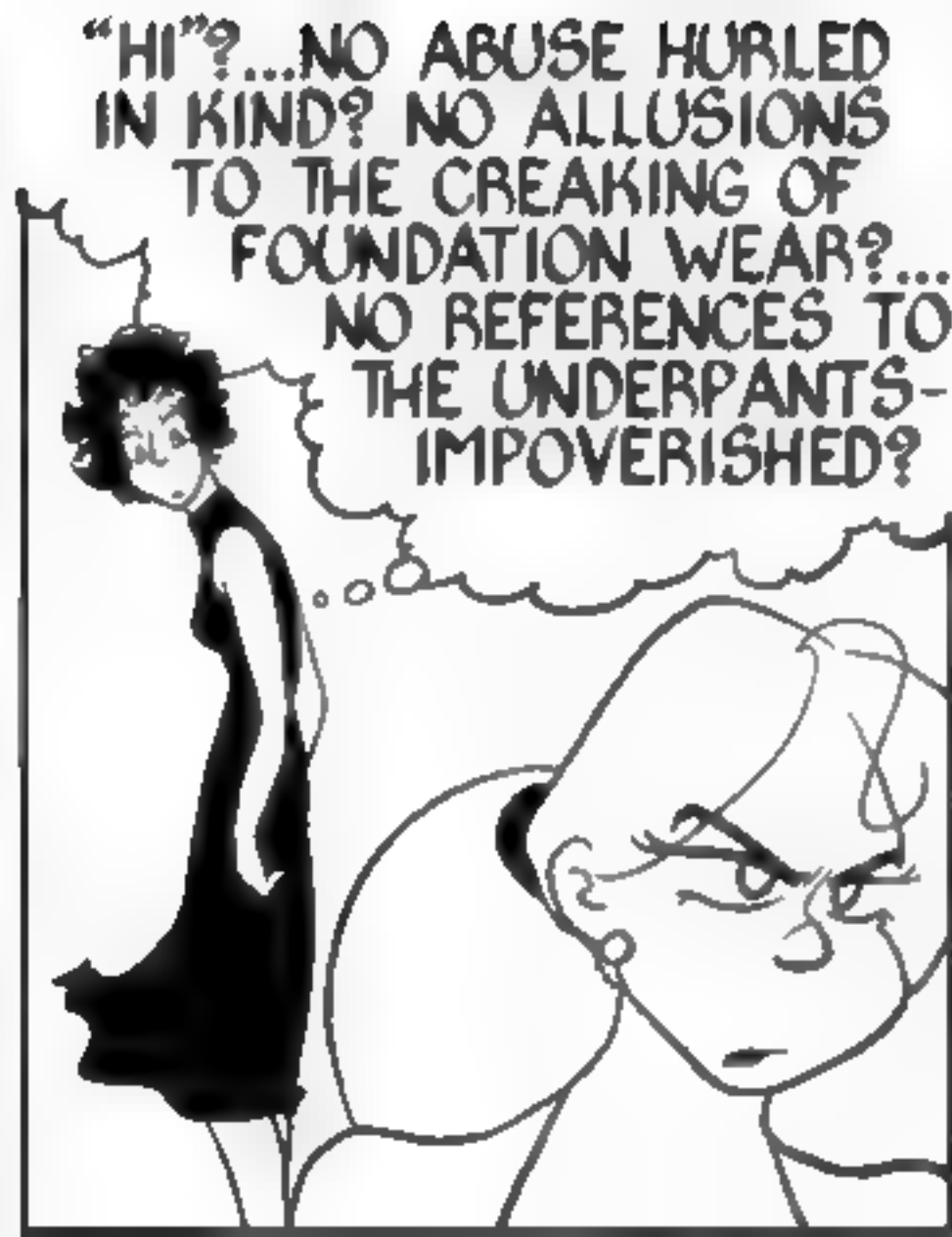


AMOS?  
IS THAT YOU?  
YOU APPEAR TO  
BE EMBEDDED IN  
THE CEILING.

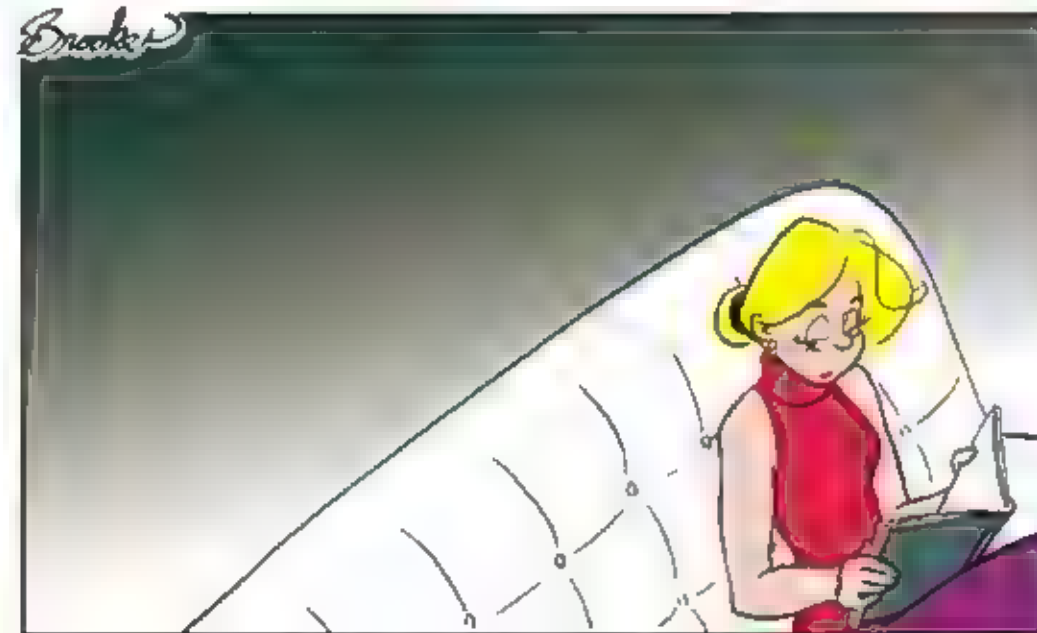
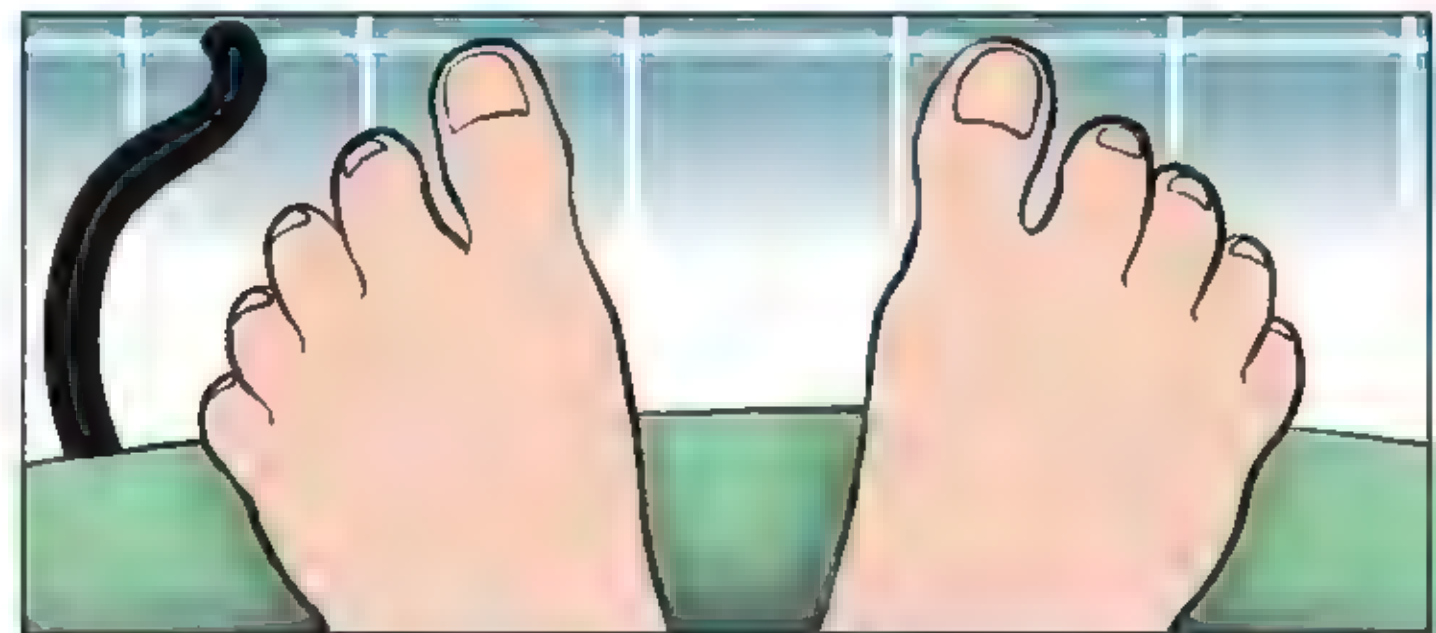
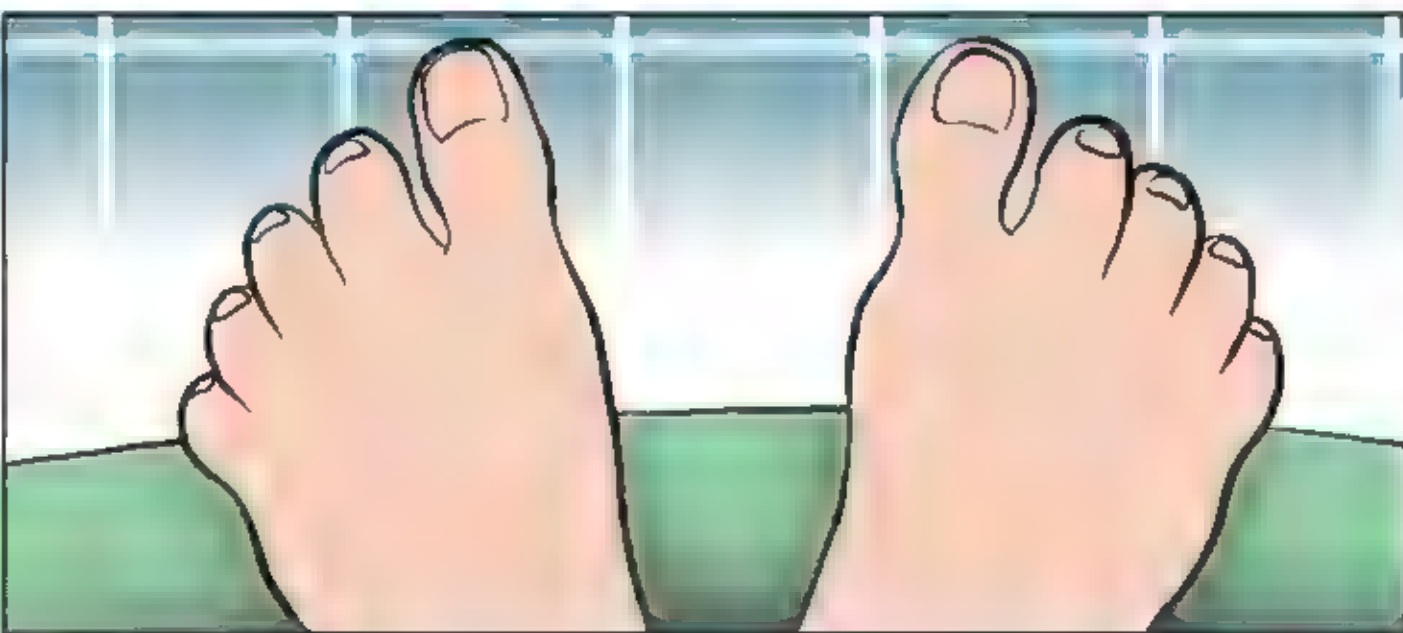
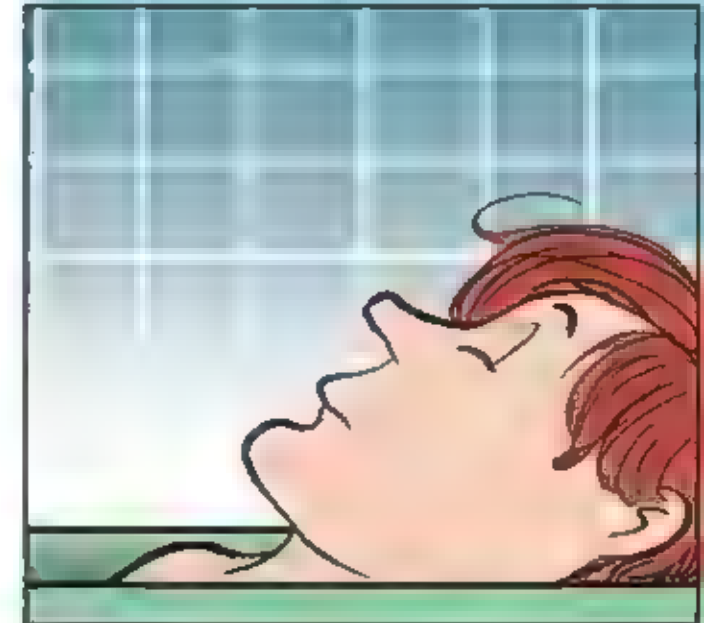


You should  
have seen Edda  
at St. Camilla's.  
She could really  
put her back  
behind a  
javelin.

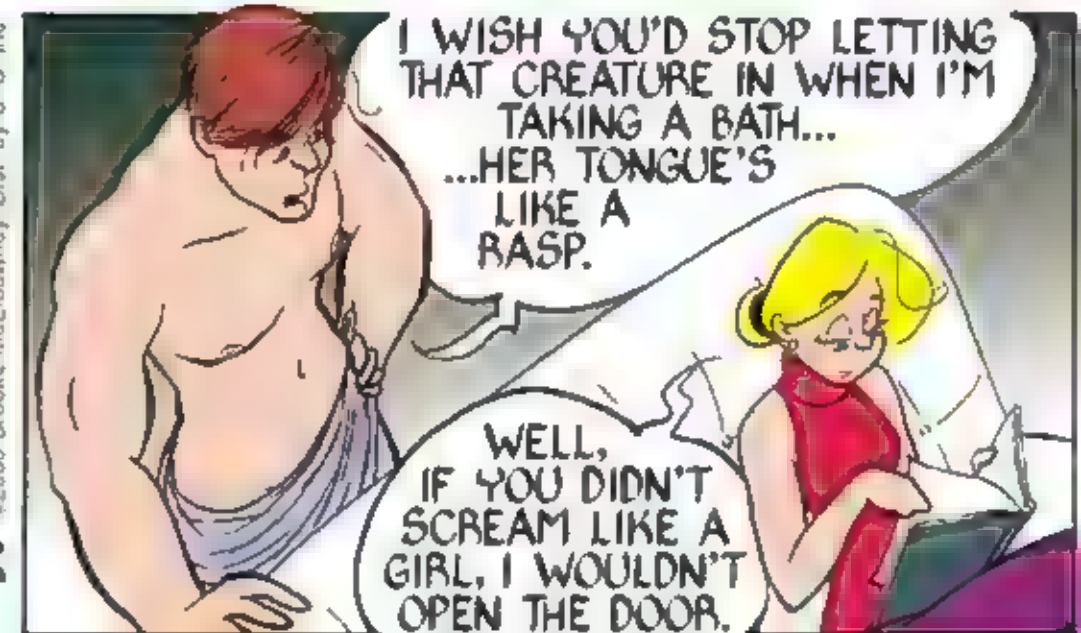
Barber







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I WISH YOU'D STOP LETTING THAT CREATURE IN WHEN I'M TAKING A BATH...  
...HER TONGUE'S LIKE A RASP.

WELL, IF YOU DIDN'T SCREAM LIKE A GIRL, I WOULDN'T OPEN THE DOOR.

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN  
YOU'D COME SWOOPING  
IN LIKE A VULTURE  
AT THE FIRST  
SIGN OF  
ROADKILL.

I PREFER  
TO FEEL  
MY PREY  
SQUIRMING  
IN MY  
TALONS...  
...BUT IF  
THAT'S  
HOW YOU  
SEE  
AMOS...

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THAT IS NOT HOW  
I SEE AMOS!

WELL, YOU WERE  
THE ONE WITH  
THE SIMILE.

WELL,  
YOU'RE  
THE ONE  
LICKING  
HER  
CHOPS.

I JUST  
FELT A COLD  
FRISSON  
COURSE  
RIGHT DOWN  
MY SPINE.

EDDA  
MUST BE  
TALKING  
TO ISABEL.

Brooke

AMOS AND I ALWAYS  
UNDERSTOOD EACH OTHER.  
WE AGREED THAT THE  
PHYSICAL PROCEEDED  
FROM THE INTELLECTUAL.



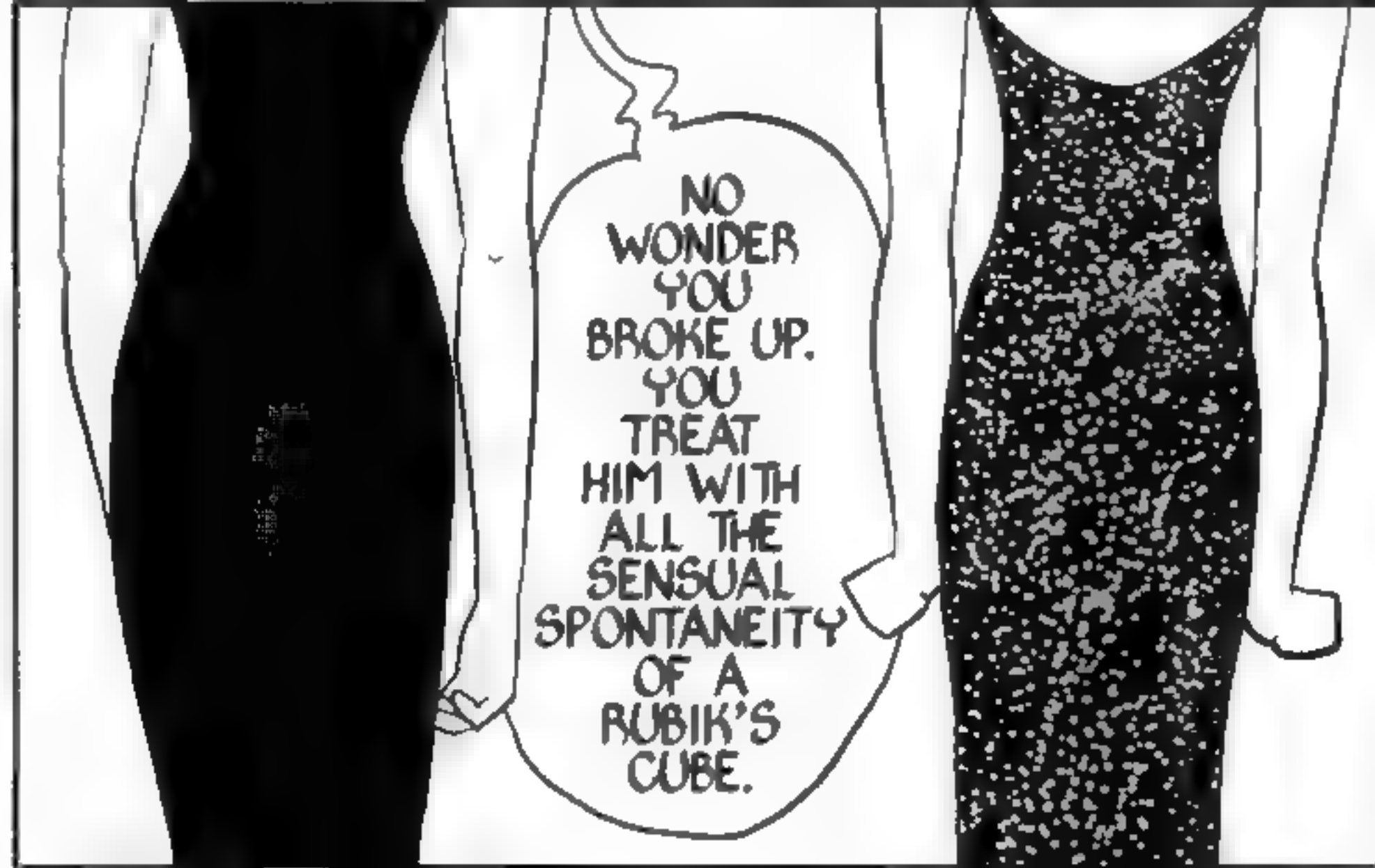
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...THAT INTIMACY CANNOT  
EXIST BEFORE UNDER-  
STANDING, THAT LOVE  
IS THE  
PREREQUISITE  
FOR LOVE-  
MAKING.



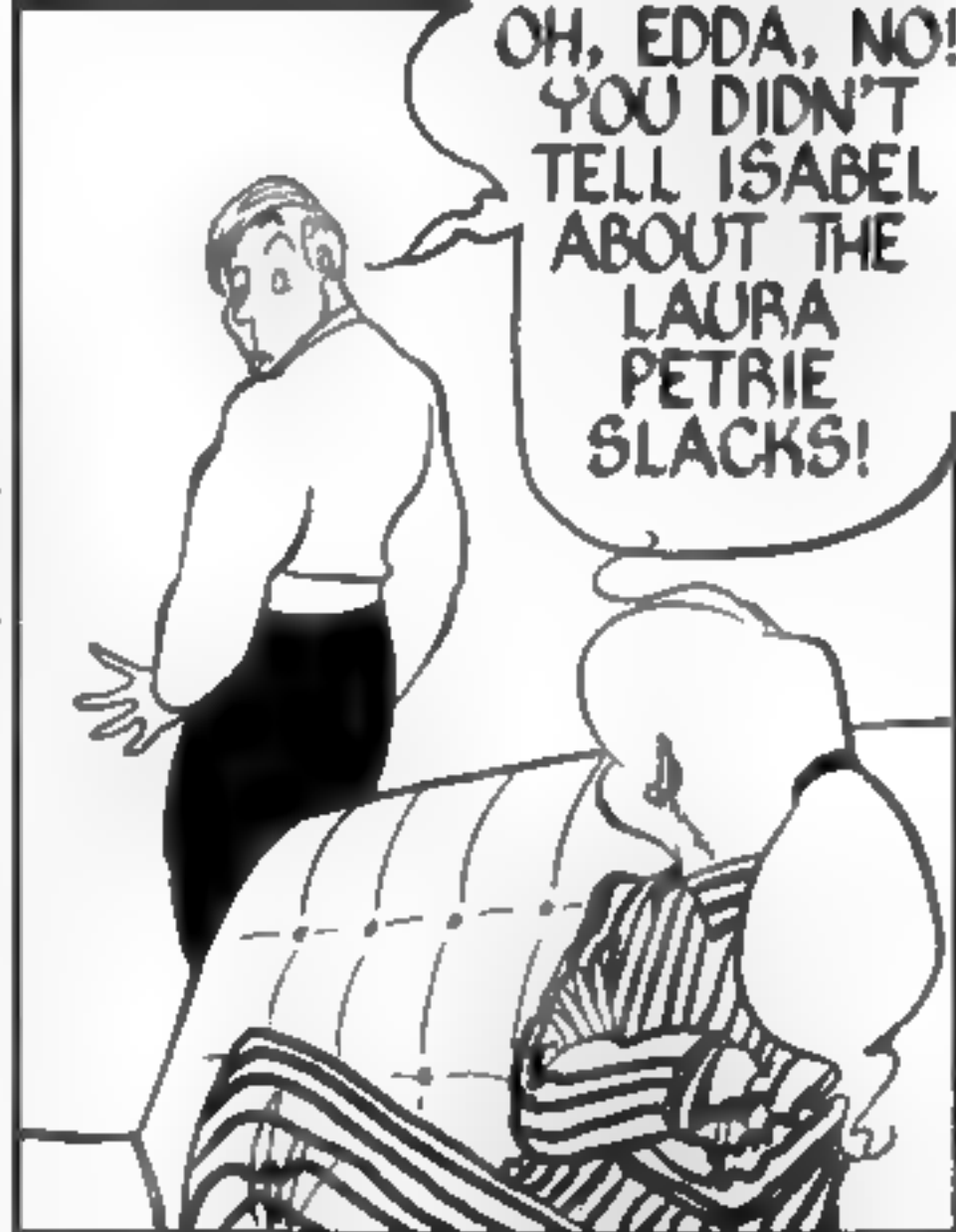
Brooke

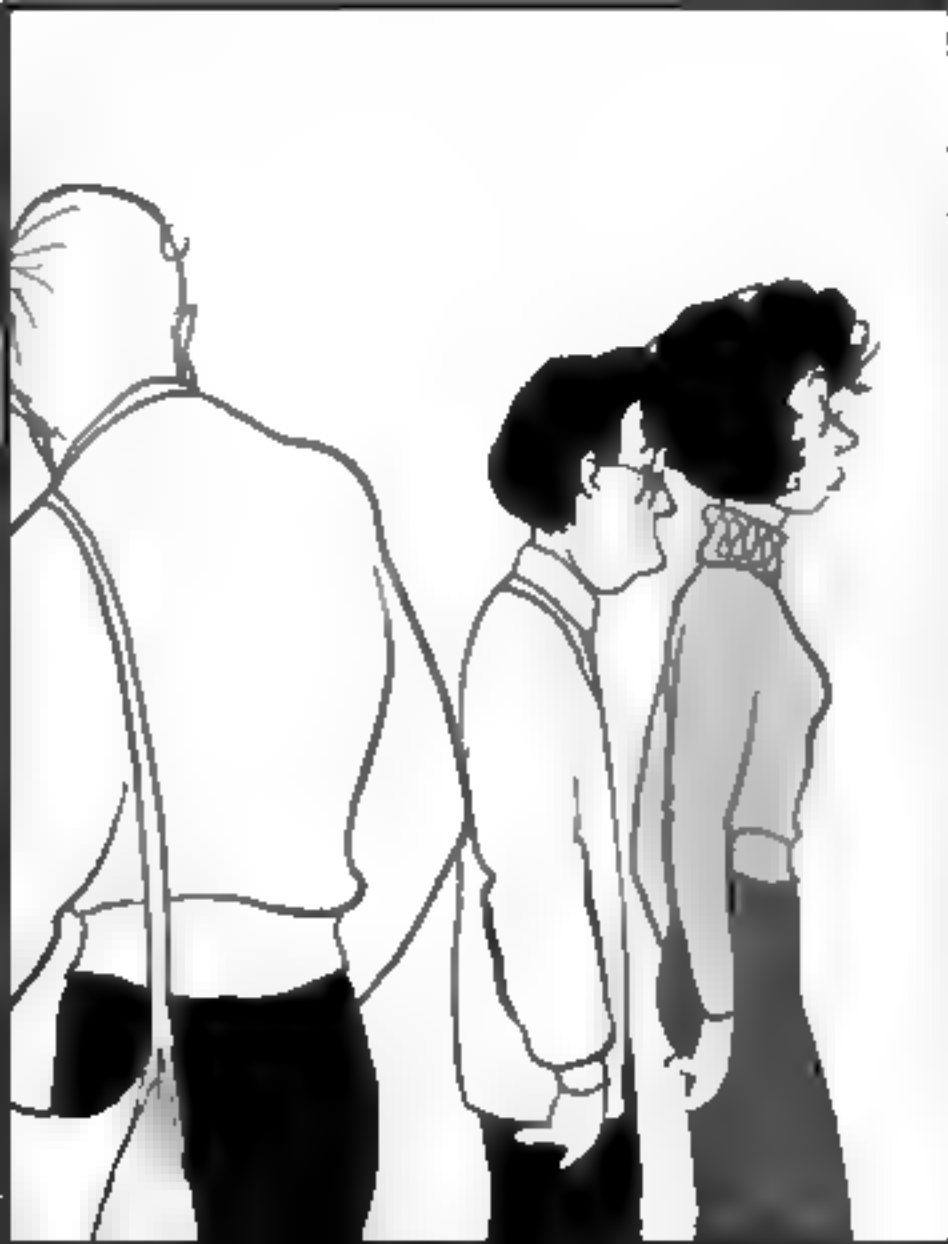
NO  
WONDER  
YOU  
BROKE UP.  
YOU  
TREAT  
HIM WITH  
ALL THE  
SENSUAL  
SPONTANEITY  
OF A  
RUBIK'S  
CUBE.



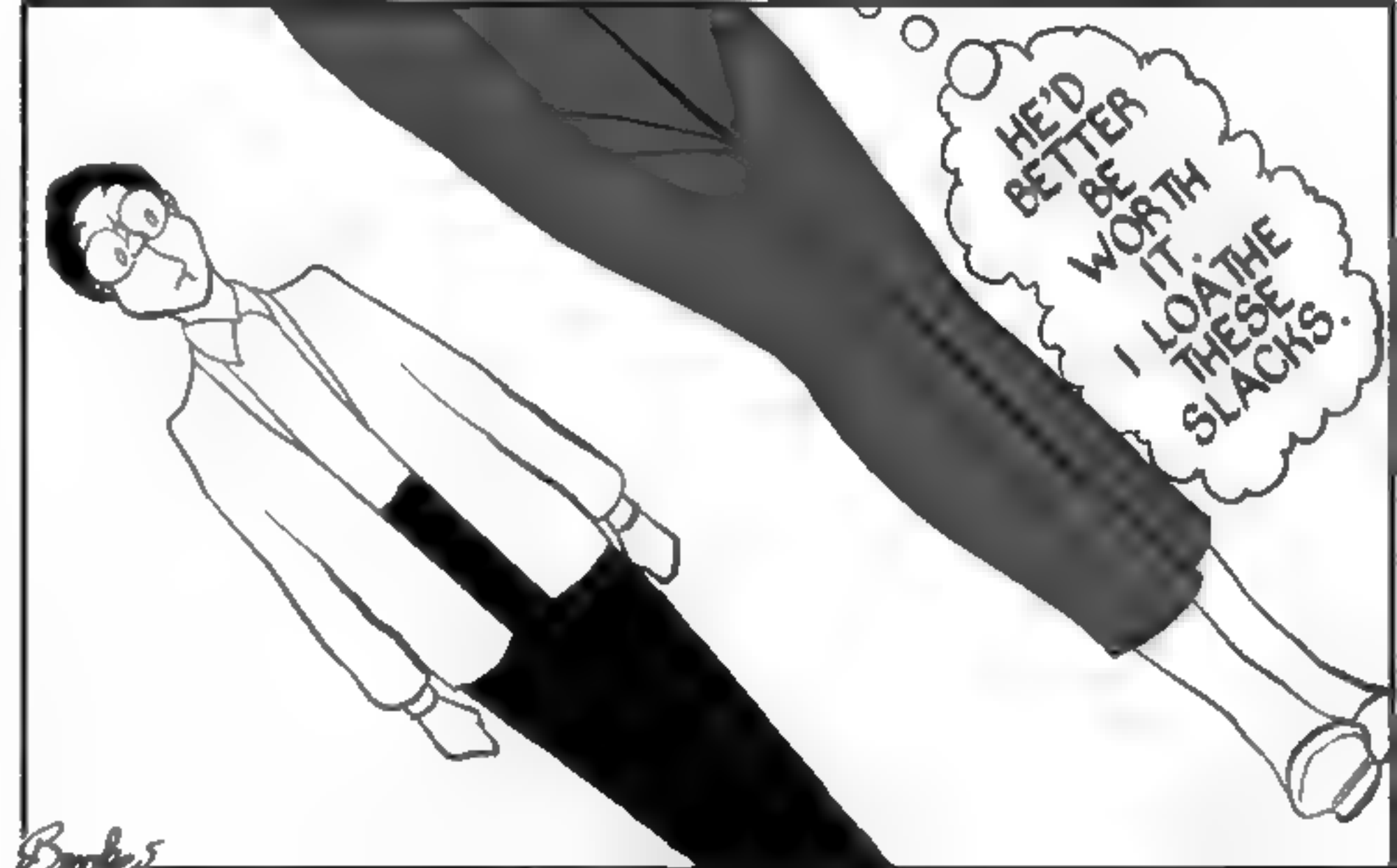


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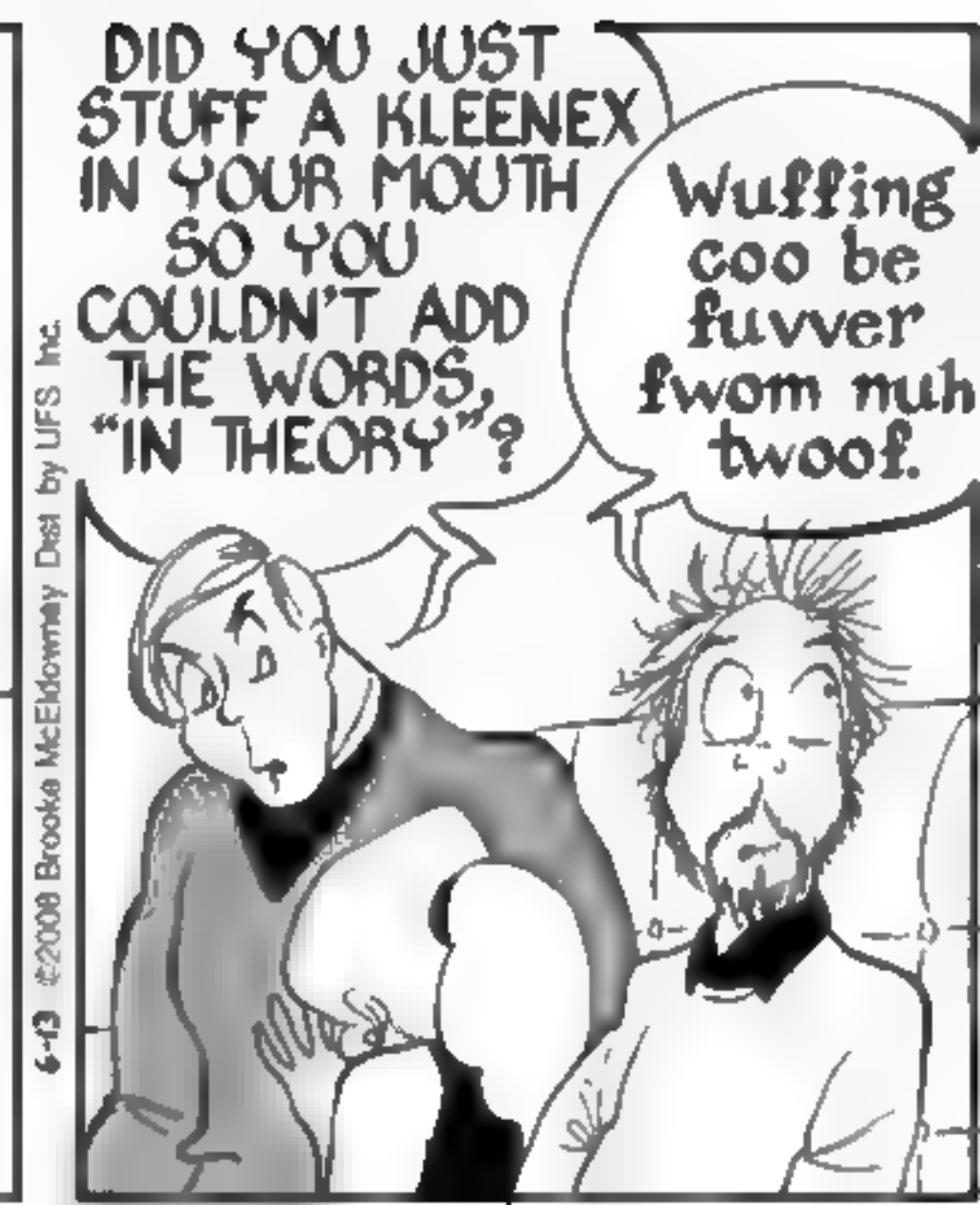
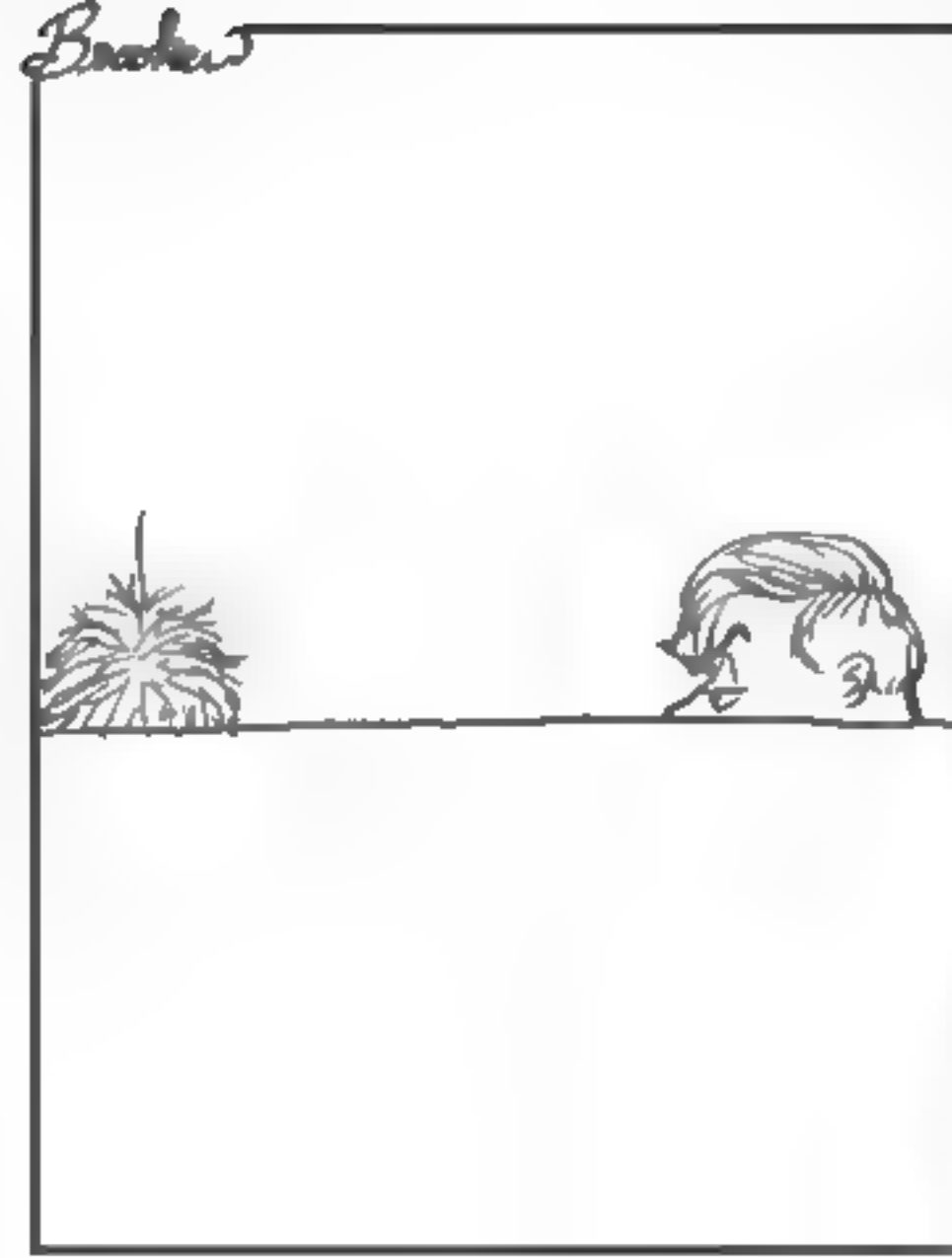




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YOU WERE CARRYING  
ON WITH SOMEONE,  
WEREN'T YOU? WAS IT  
THAT COURIER WITH  
THE RED MOUNTAIN  
BIKE?

OH,  
PLEASE.



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YOUR PUBLICIST?...BOB?! WAS IT  
THE BAG BOY AT THE  
MARKET? YOU COULDN'T  
TEAR YOURSELF AWAY  
FROM  
HIM!



THAT GUY IN THE  
THEATRE YOU KEPT  
FLIRTING WITH!  
THE COFFEE MAVEN  
AT ZABAR'S!

DON'T  
BE  
SILLY.

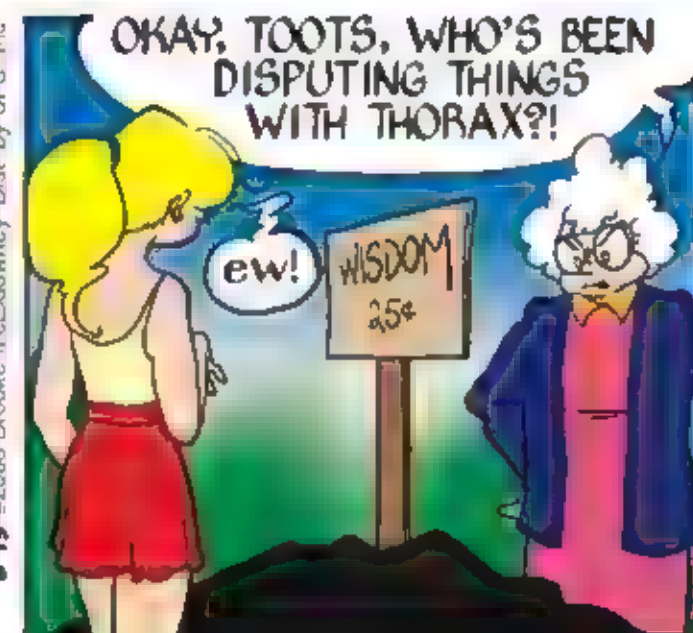
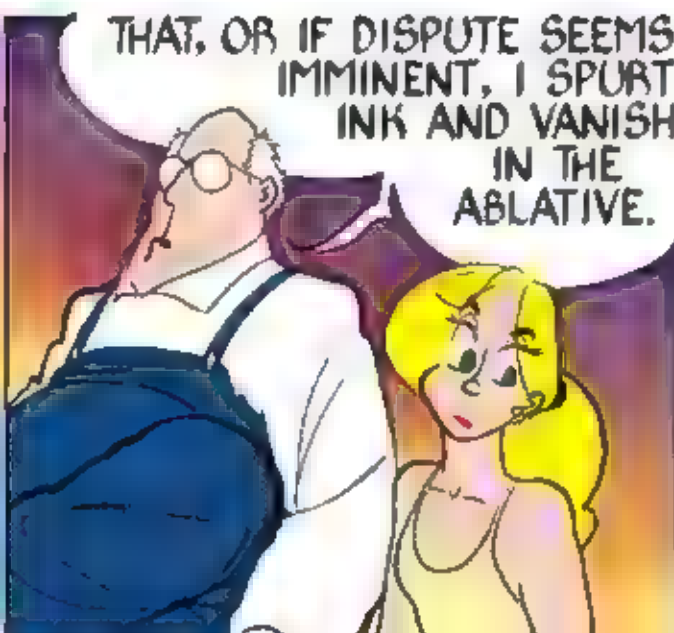
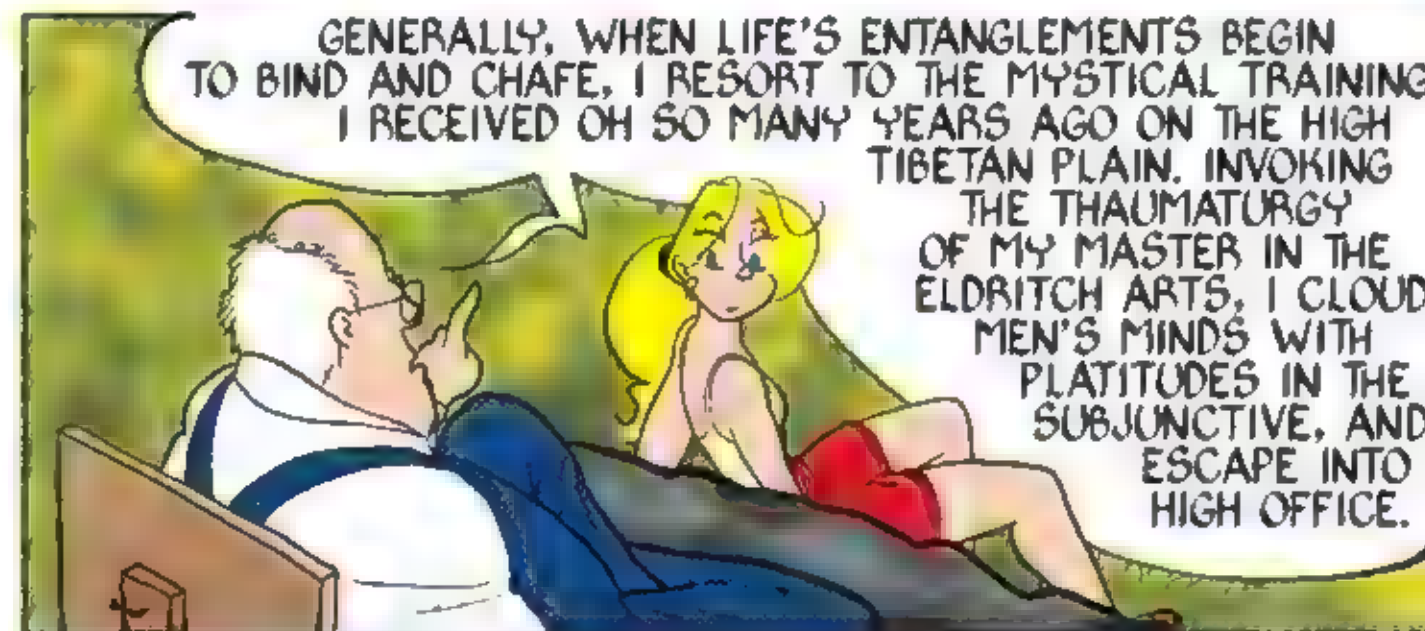
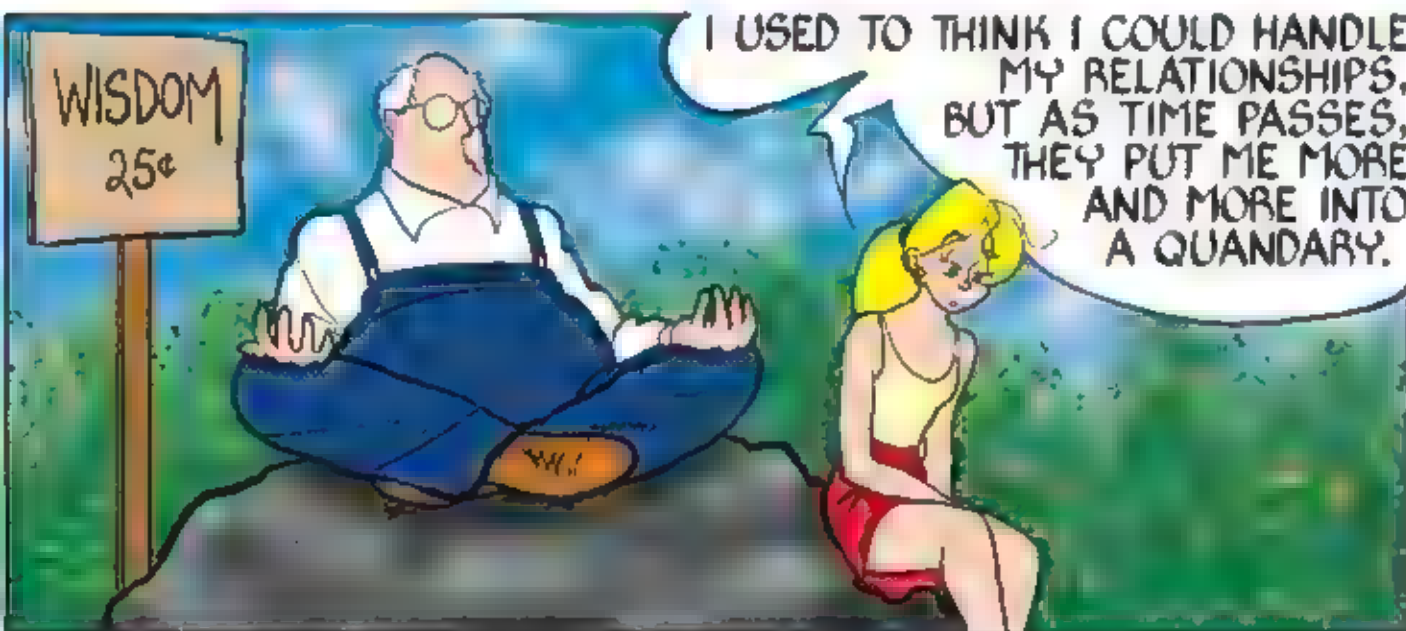


YOU'RE  
LOVING  
THIS.

I FEEL  
LIKE  
SUCH  
A STUD.

NOT  
YOUR  
CPA!







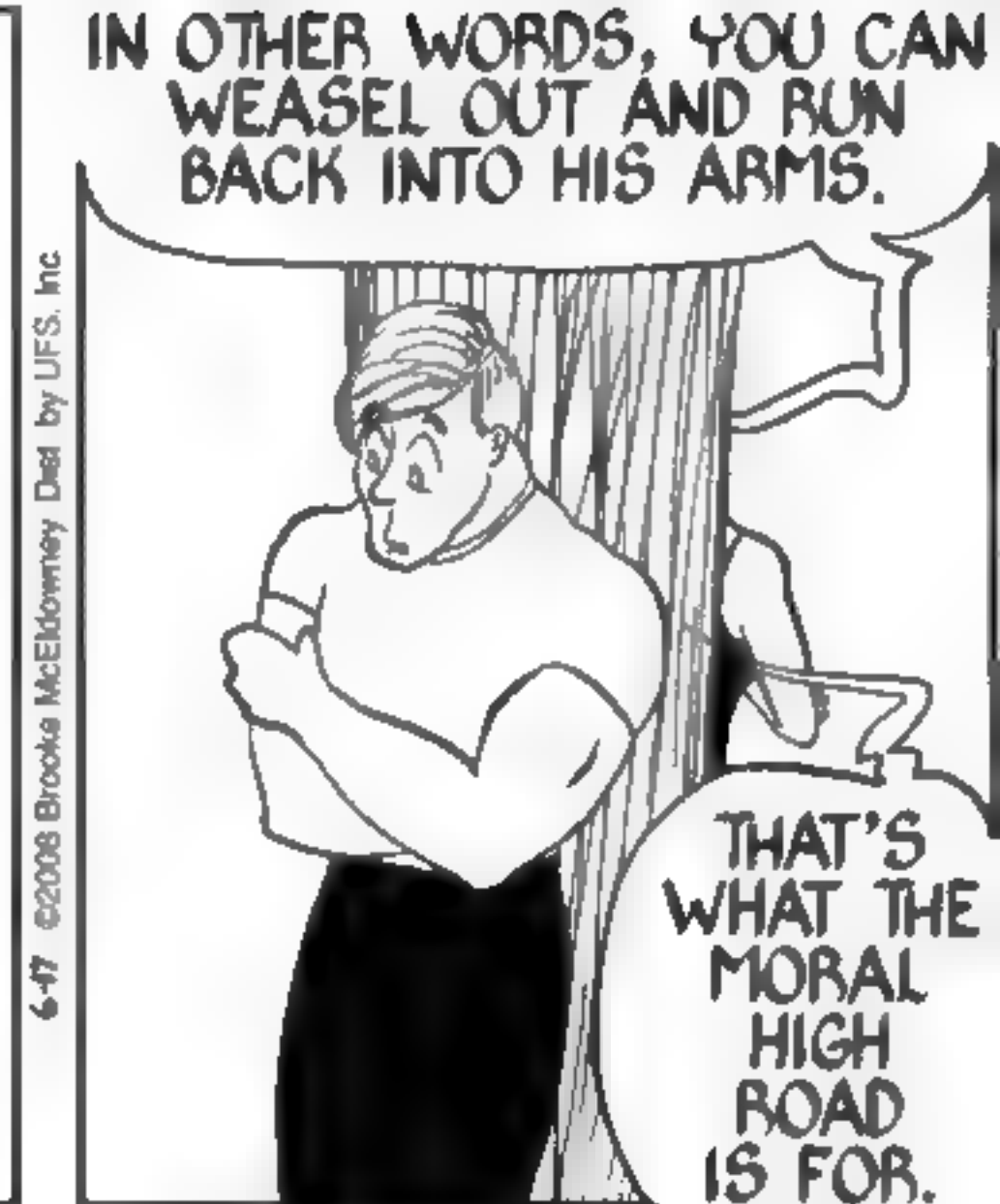
MARK, I NEED HARDLY  
TELL YOU...



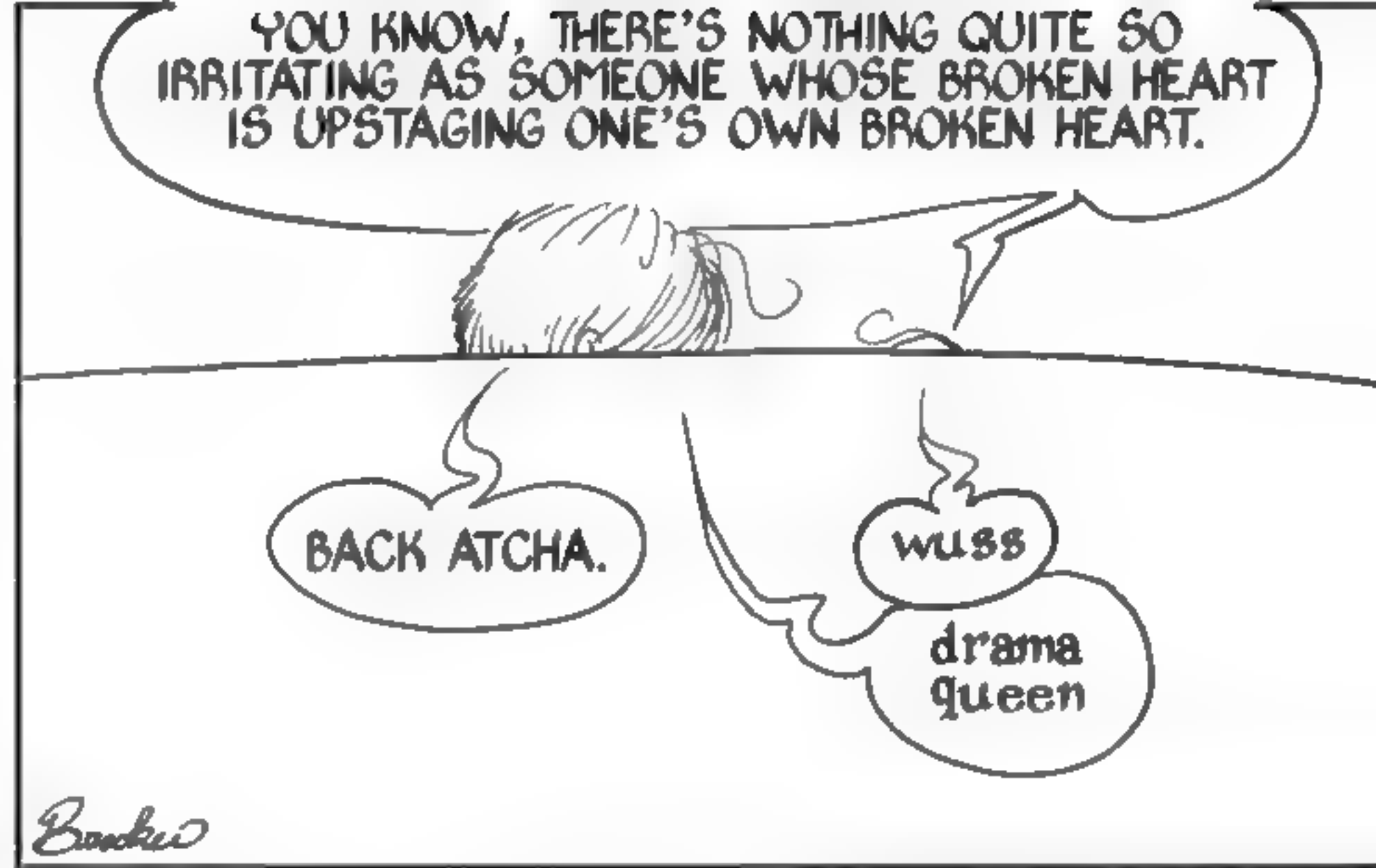
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LOOK, THE TIME HAS COME...









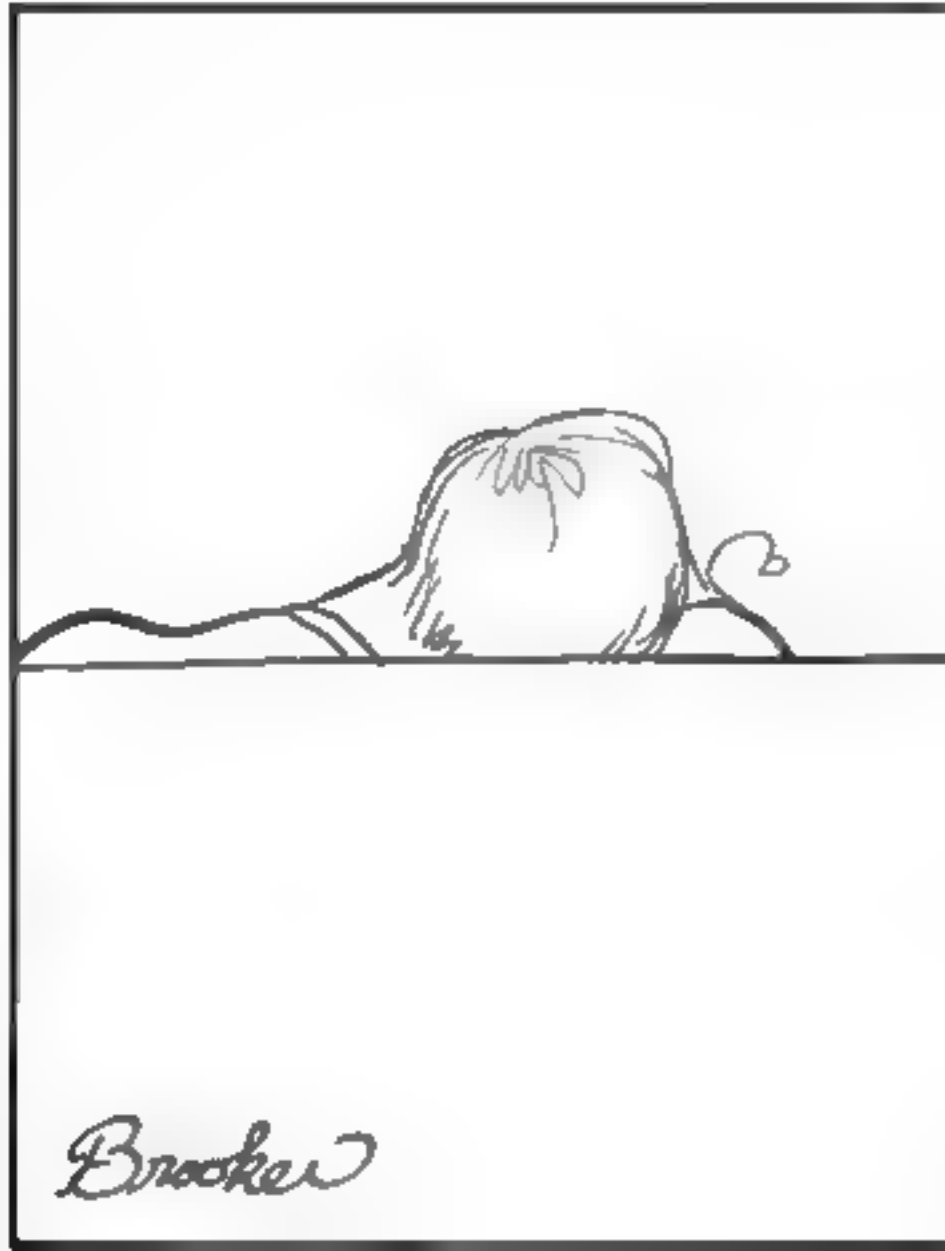
I JUST FEEL SO MISERABLE  
WITHOUT MARK.

I KNOW  
WHAT YOU MEAN,  
BUT THERE WAS  
A REASON  
YOU FELL  
OUT.



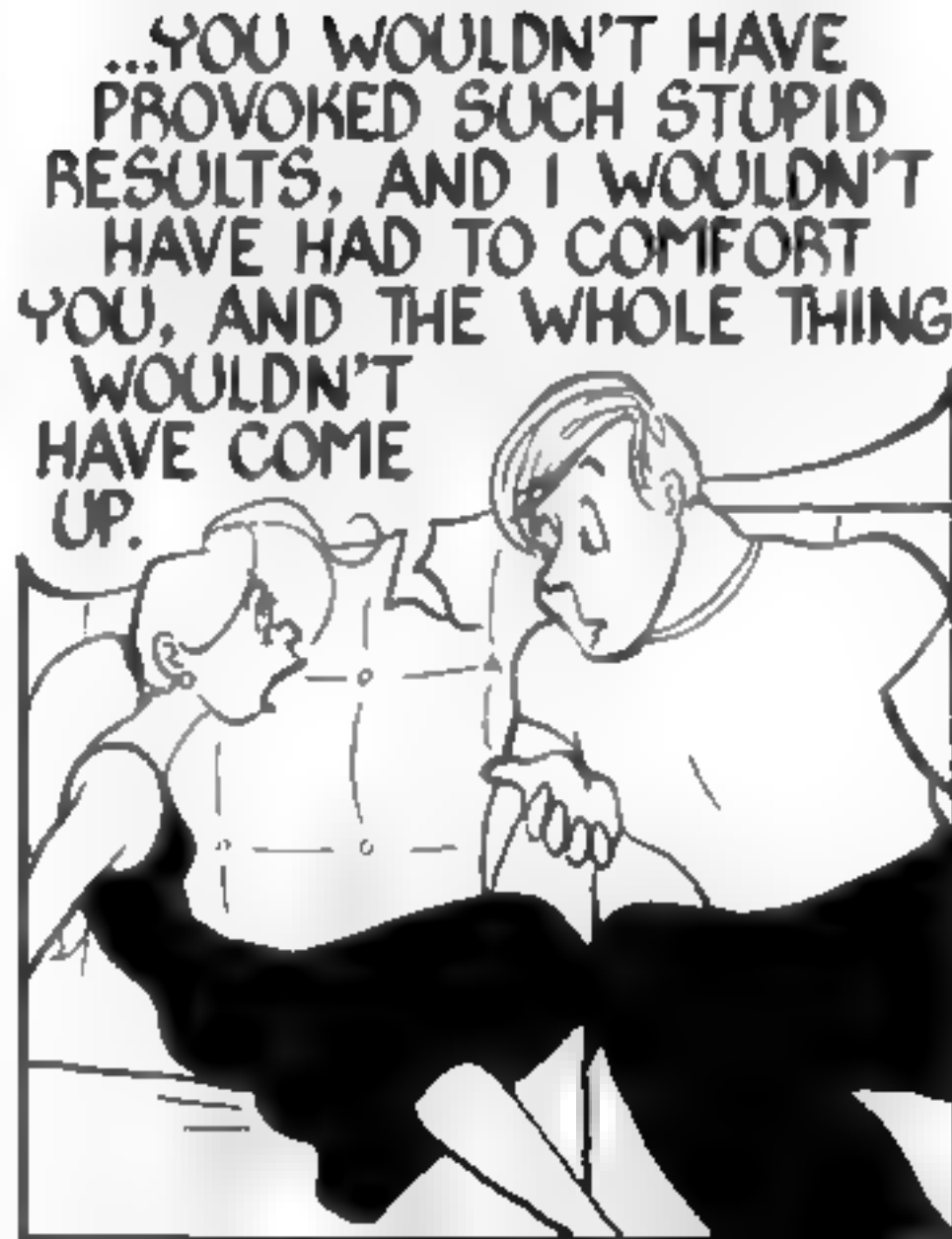
419 AX18 Brooke McEldowney Dist by UFS, Inc.

I KNOW...YOU'RE RIGHT.



I BLAME  
YOU.

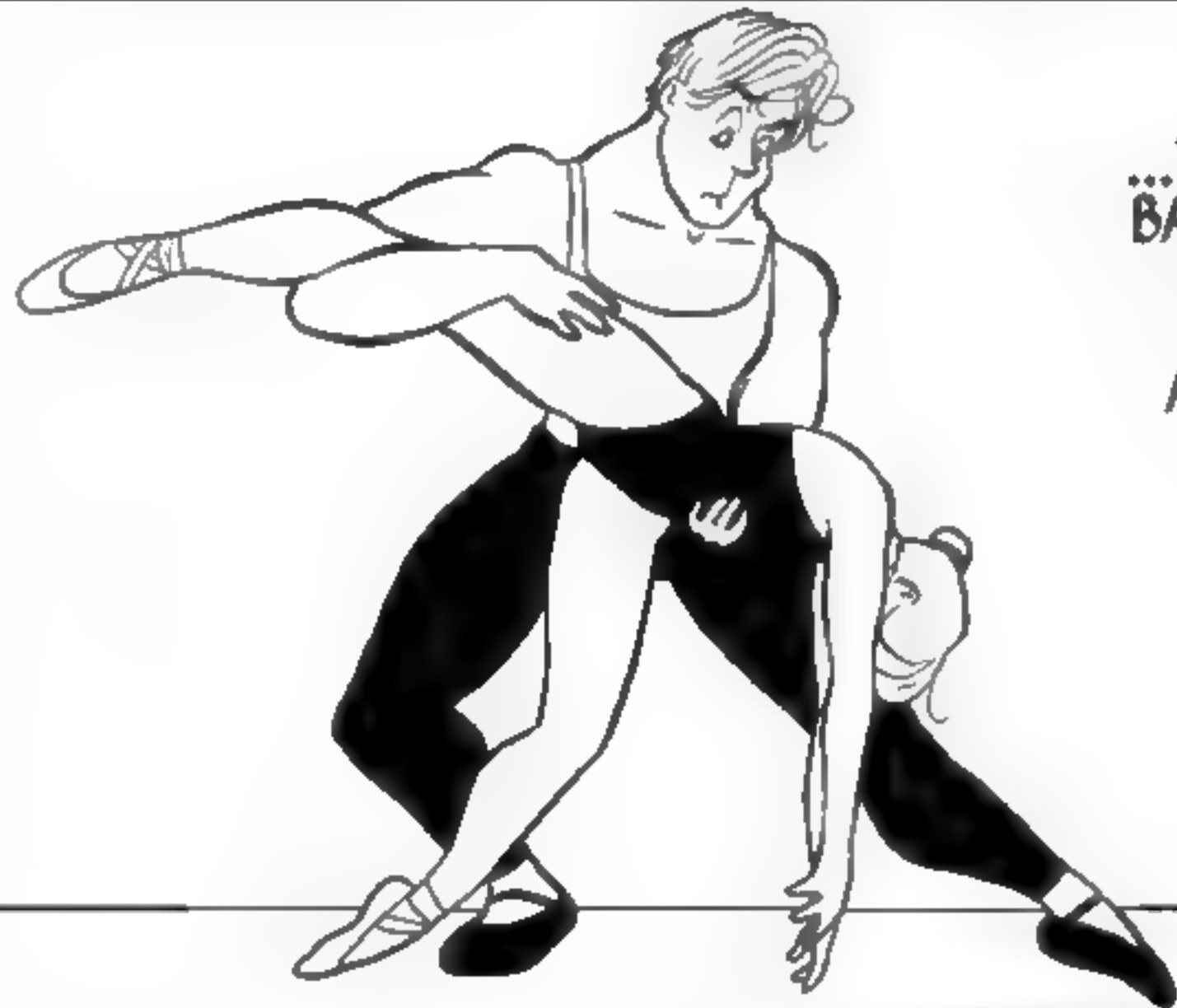




NOTHING  
IS  
HEAVIER...

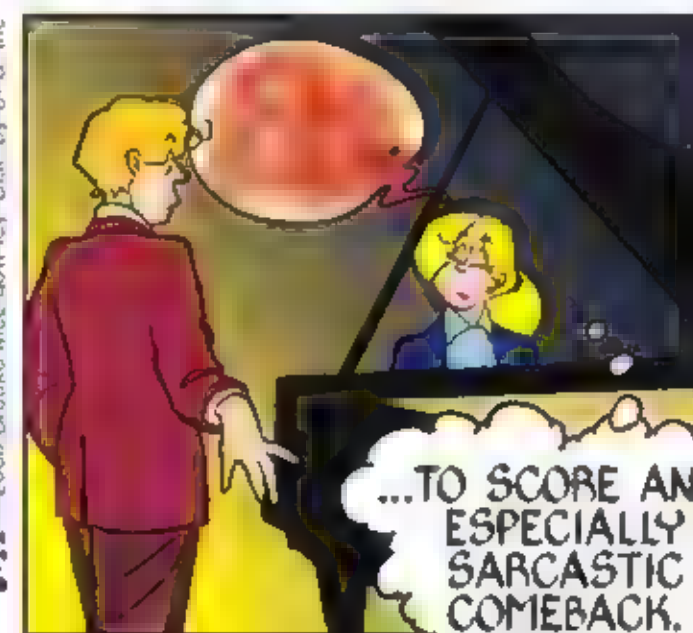
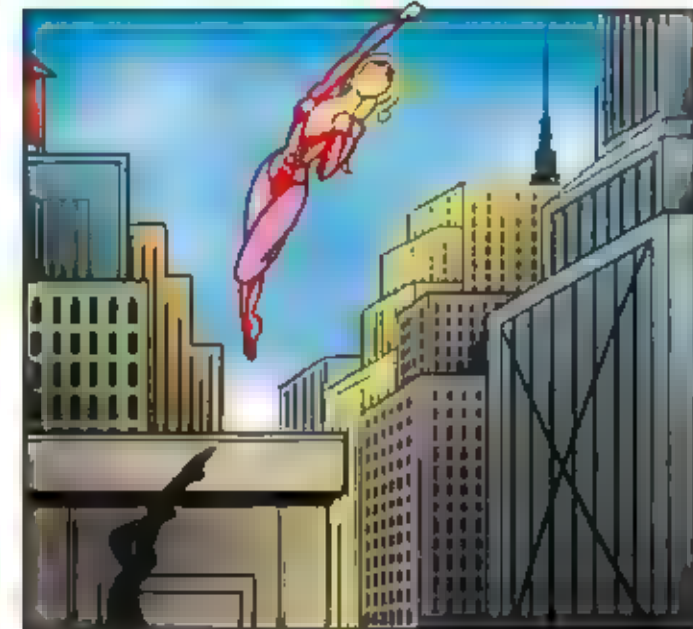
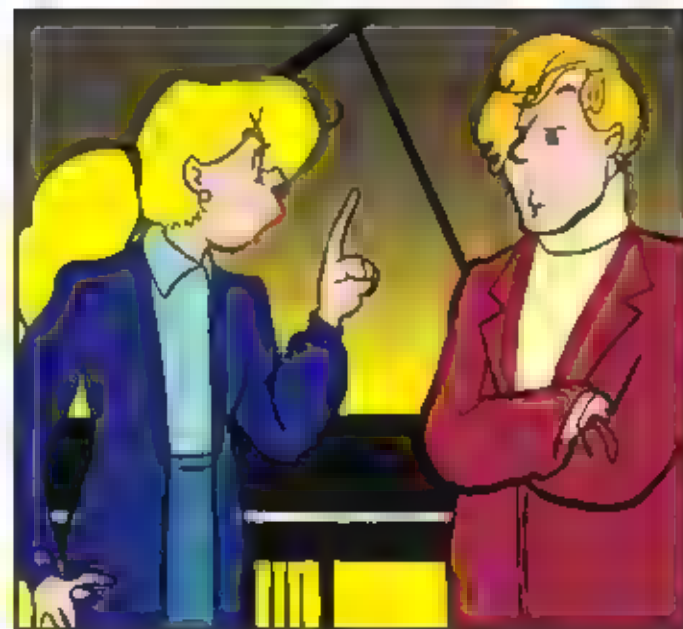
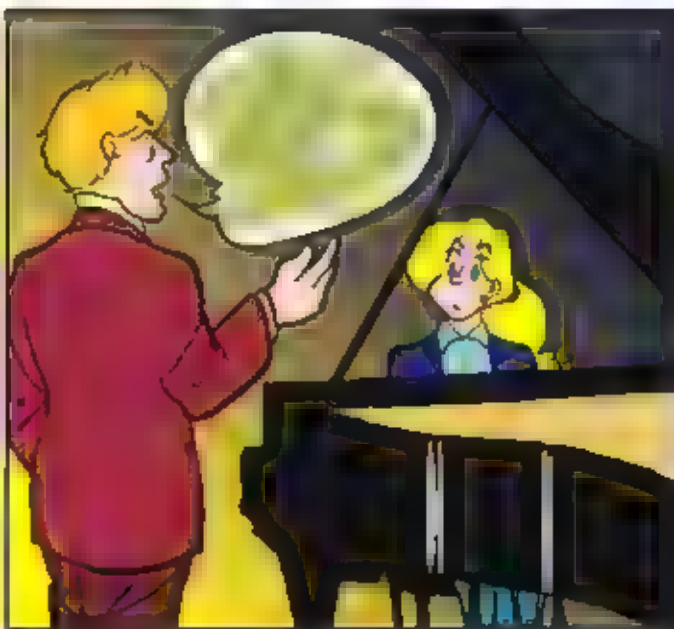
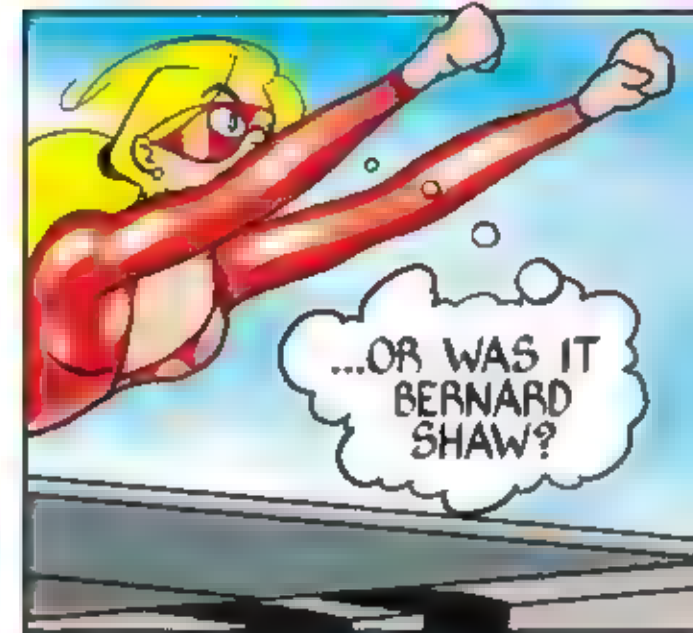
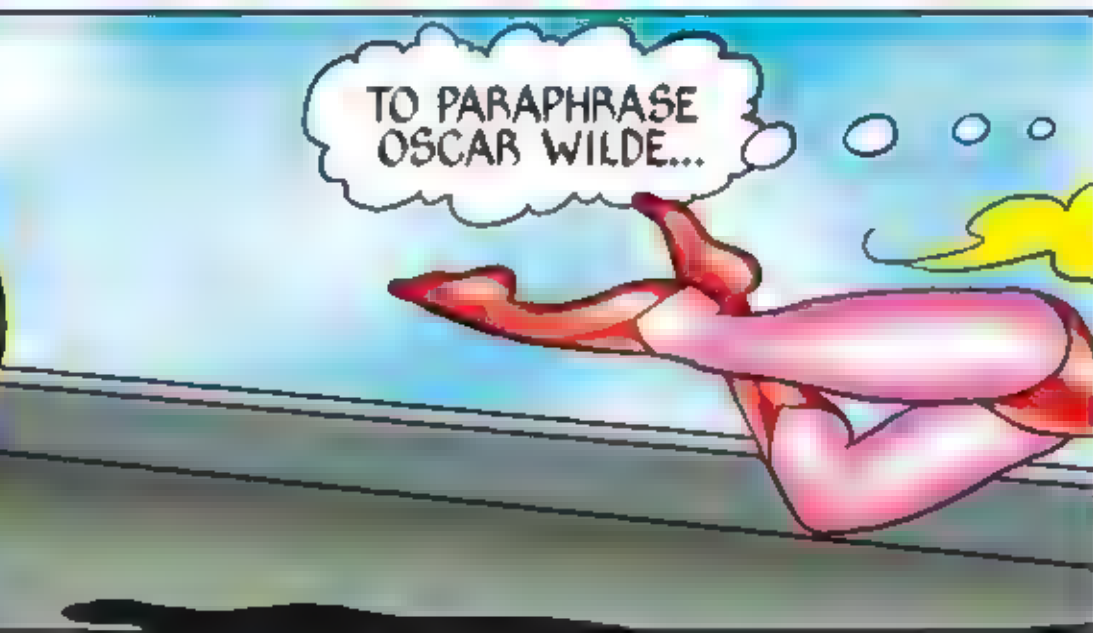


...THAN A  
BALLERINA  
WHO  
IS MAD  
AT YOU.





# 9 CHICKWEED LANE

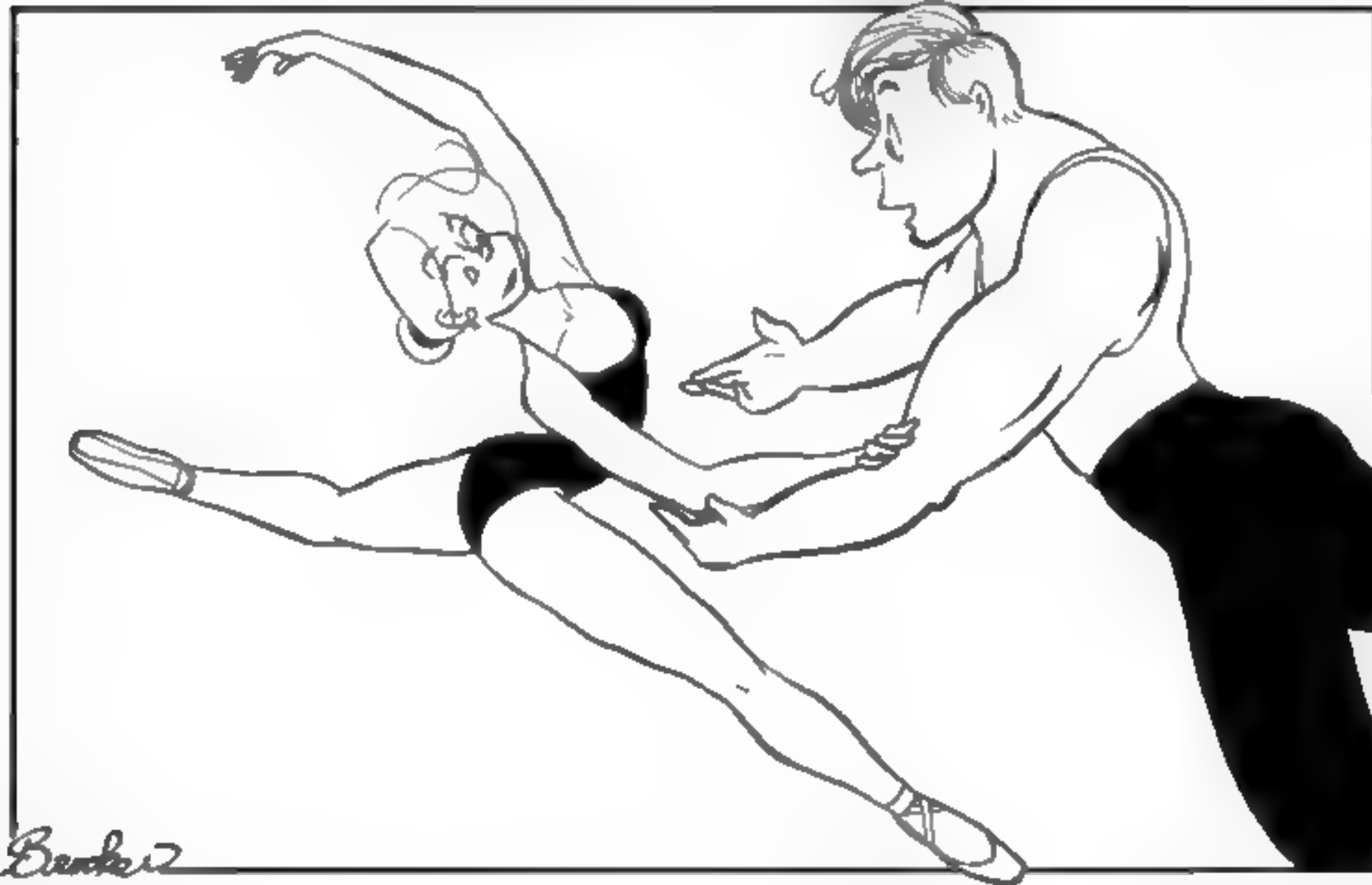


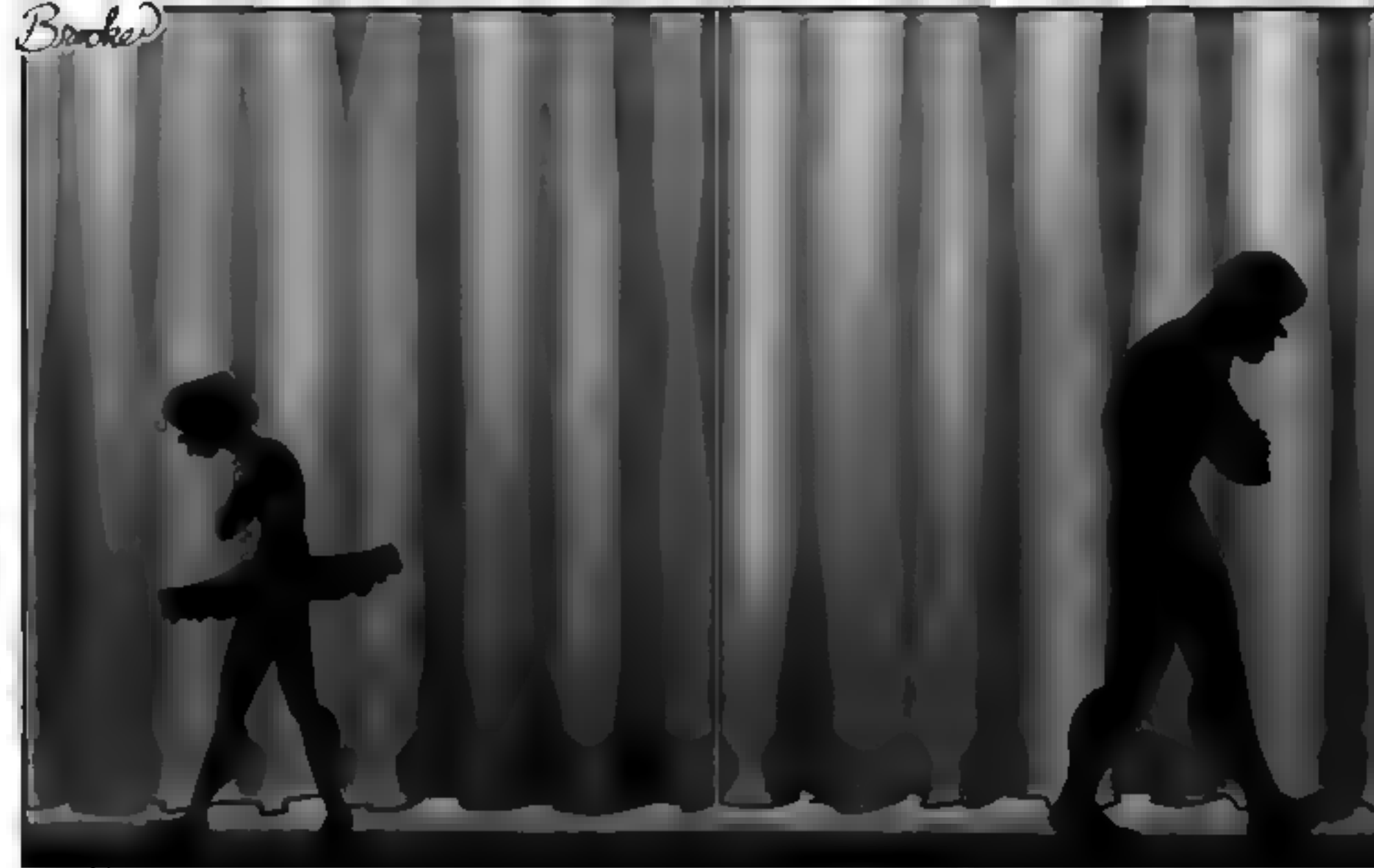
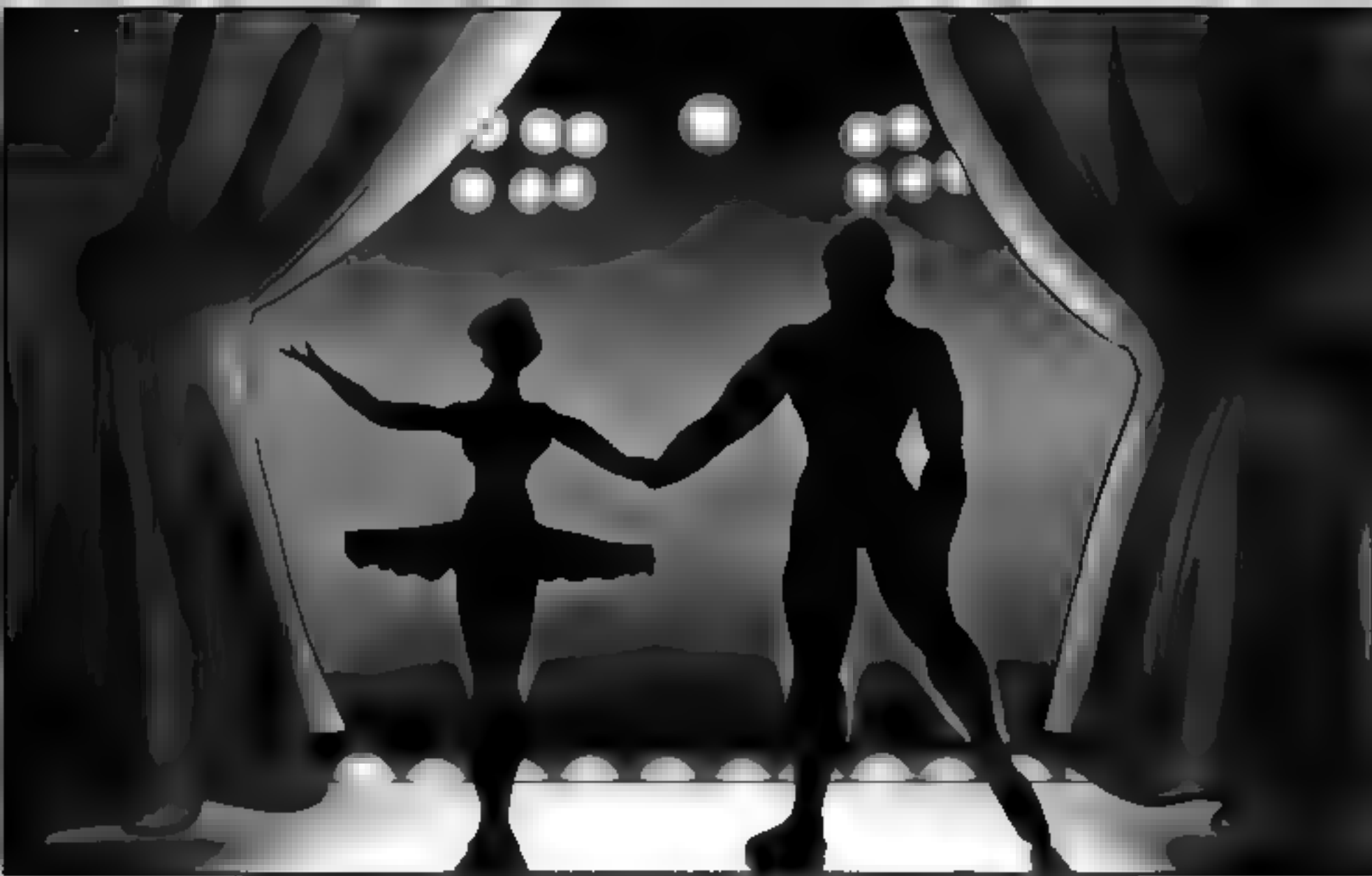


THERE IS  
NOTHING  
STIFFER  
THAN A  
BALLERINA  
WHO  
RECENTLY  
LOST AN  
ARGUMENT  
TO YOUR  
BRAND OF  
LOGIC.  
UNASSAILABLE



Brooke





*Broken*

MARK, EDDA AND SETH  
AREN'T SPEAKING TO EACH  
OTHER AT REHEARSALS.  
WHAT HAPPENED?

THE NEAREST  
I CAN MAKE OUT,  
WHEN SETH  
AND I  
BROKE UP,  
HE BLAMED  
HER.

YOU  
BROKE  
UP?

YEP.

THIS MUST BE  
LEAVING YOU FEELING  
A LITTLE VULNERABLE.

IT IS, KIND  
OF, JANICE.

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*Brooke*



JANICE, I SAID I BROKE UP  
WITH SETH...I DIDN'T SAY  
I'D GONE OVER TO THE  
DARK SIDE.



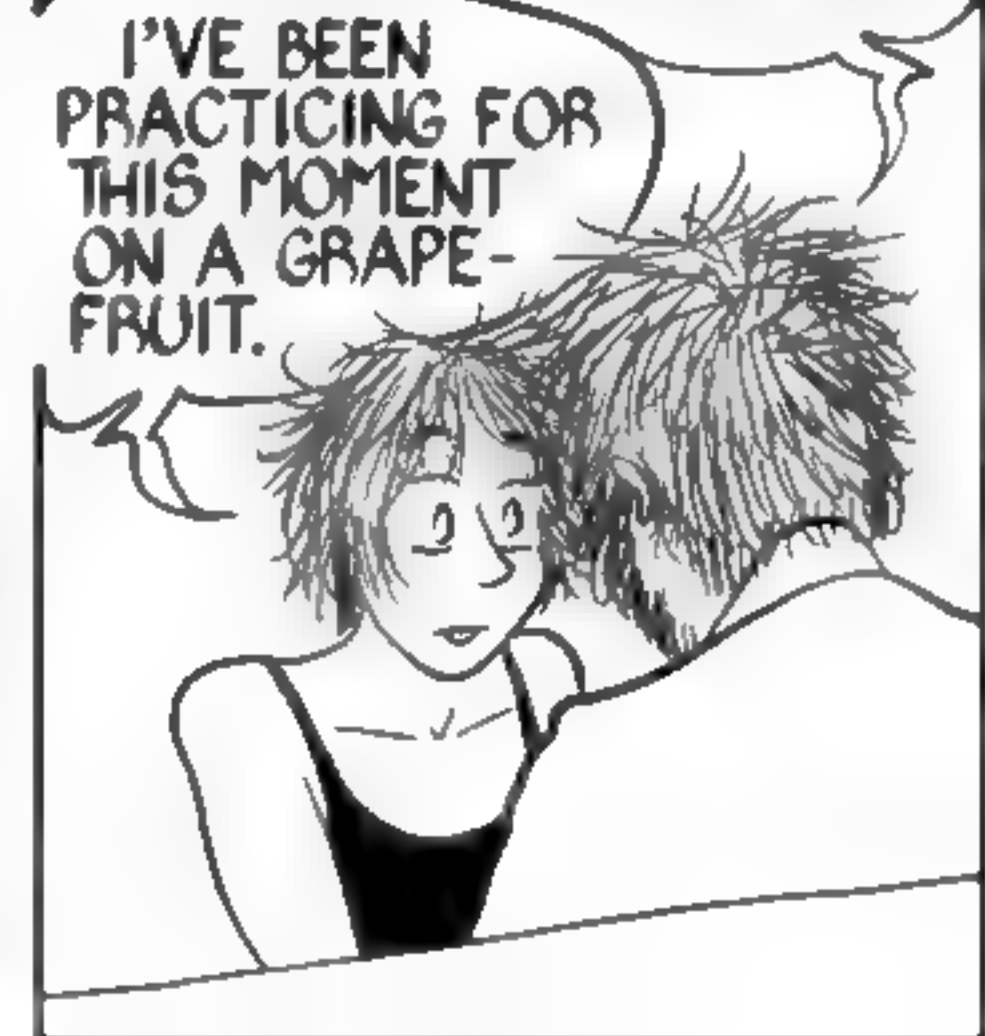
SORRY...I COULDN'T  
HELP IT. I GUESS  
I'VE NEVER  
GIVEN UP  
HOPE.



...I WILL  
SAY ONE  
THING...

WELL...

YOU HAVE GREAT LIP ACTION.  
YOU COULD GIVE SETH  
POINTERS.



I'VE BEEN  
PRACTICING FOR  
THIS MOMENT  
ON A GRAPE-  
FRUIT.

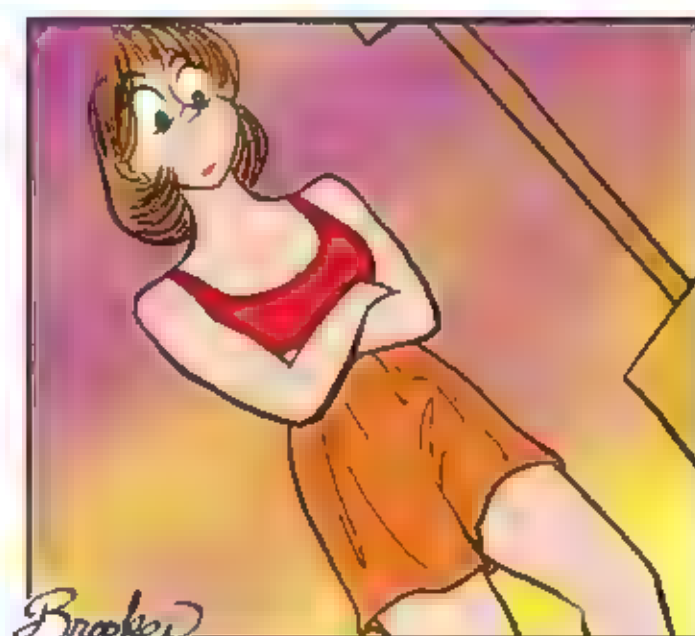
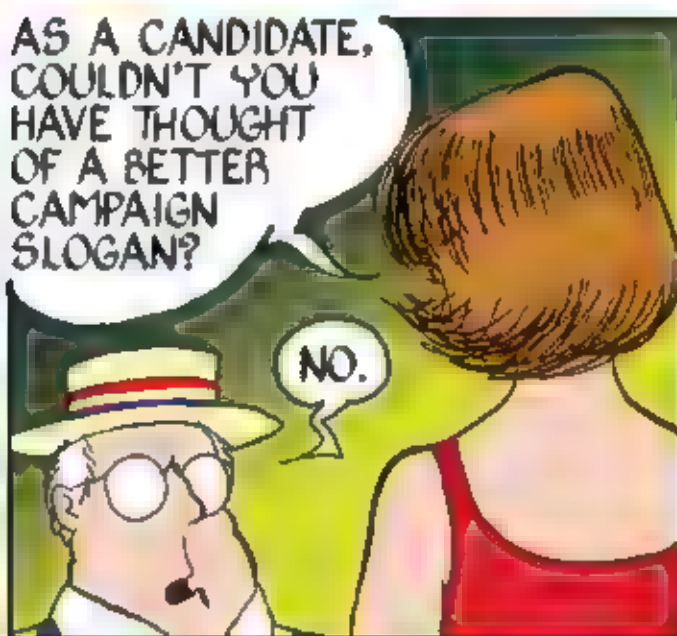
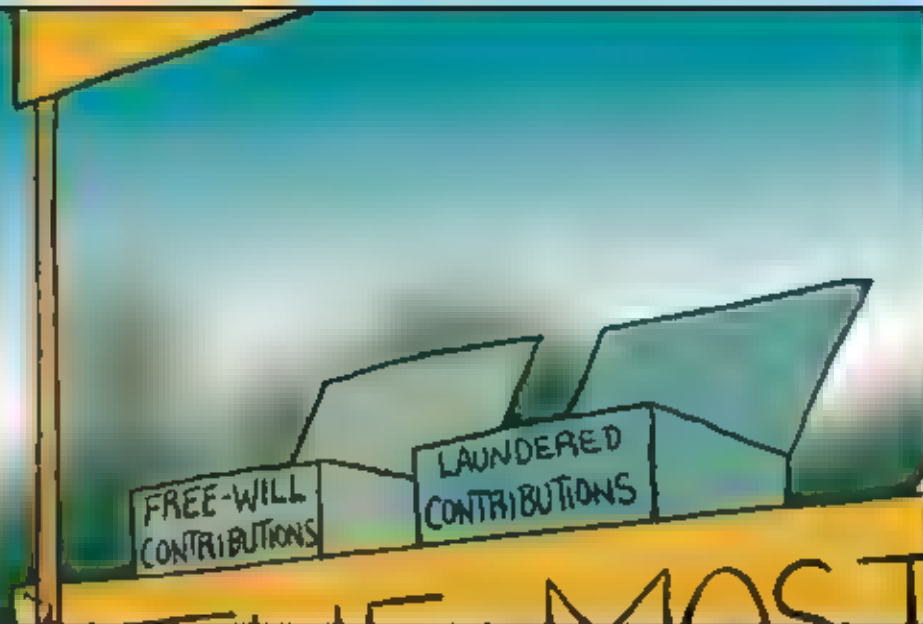


IF I WERE TO ALLOW YOU TO GO ON KISSING ME, I'D JUST BE USING YOU TO STRIKE BACK AT SETH. IT WOULD BE A REVENGE KISS, TOTALLY WITHOUT MEANING. YOU WOULDN'T WANT THAT.

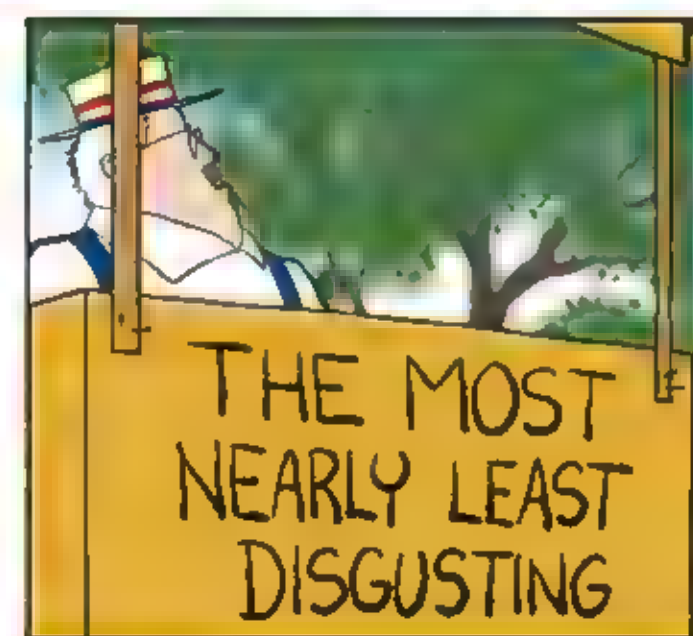
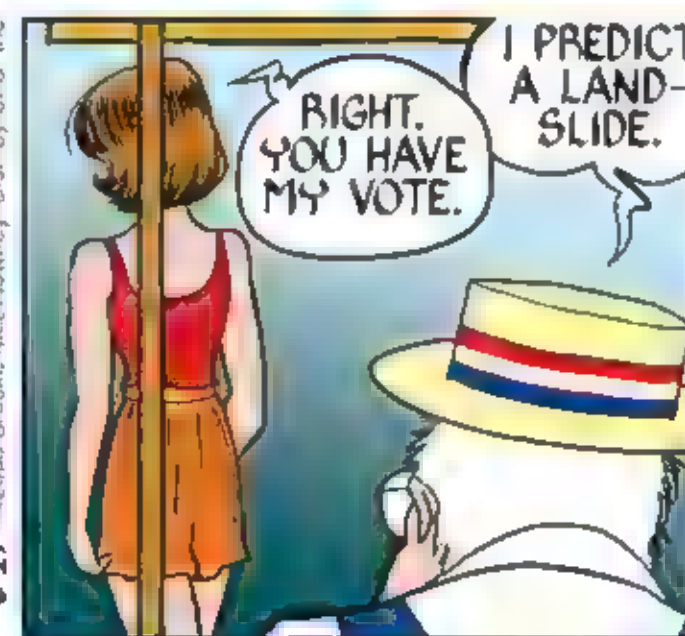


ACTUALLY, I'D BE PERFECTLY COMFORTABLE WITH MEANINGLESS REVENGE. IN FACT, ALL YOU'D HAVE TO DO IS THE KISSING. I'D PROVIDE THE REVENGE, AND THROW IN MEANINGLESS UNTIL THE COWS CAME HOME.





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*Dear Ask Auntie Ethel...  
I'm in love with a really sweet, cute gay man.  
I'll call him "Buzz." Buzz cannot return my  
romantic overtures, but that hasn't stopped  
us from being close friends.  
Now Buzz is on the rebound,  
and I want to exploit his  
feelings of loss and  
vulnerability to quench  
my own desire. Do you  
think I have a chance?  
Spinning-My-Wheels  
in NYC*



*Brooke 2*

Dear Spinning-My-  
Wheels...



First of all, I believe  
there is a constitu-  
tional amendment  
protecting gay men  
from being called  
"Buzz."

Your apartment is  
surrounded by  
police snipers.

Make no abrupt  
motions.

Dear Spinning-My-Wheels in NYC,  
What you describe in yourself is the urge  
to "turn around" a gay man,  
not only to satiate your base  
desire, but to validate  
the hope that you're a  
hot enough patootie  
to vanquish homo-  
sexuality. You are  
pathetic, desperate,  
lonely, unethical,  
repugnant, obsessive  
and doomed.



In other  
words,  
you have  
nothing  
to lose.

Go for it.

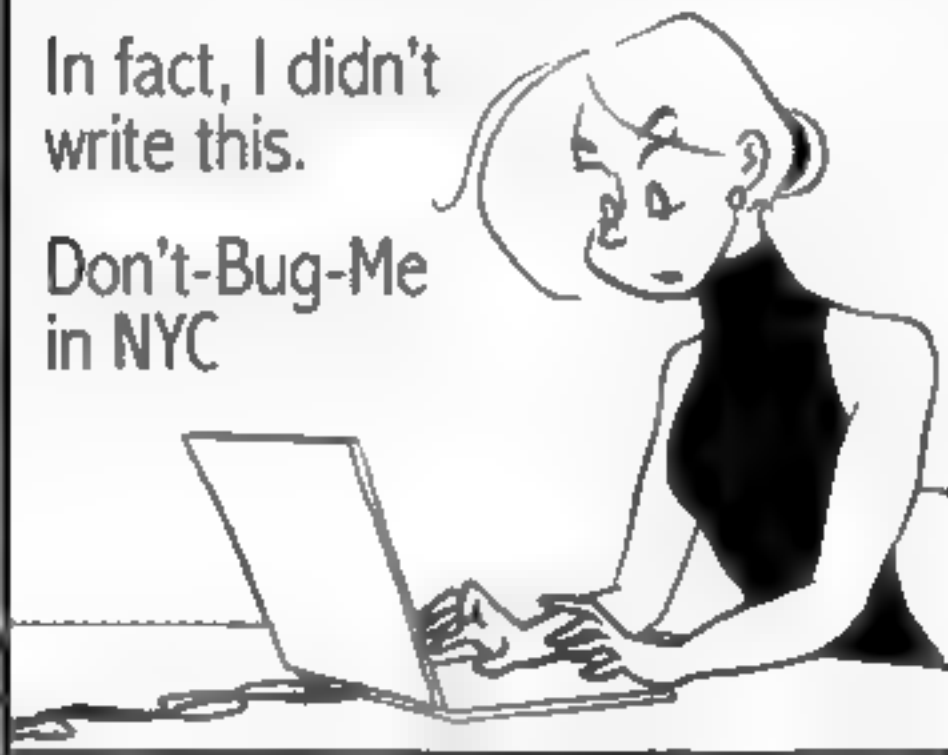
*Brooke*



Dear Ask Auntie Ethel,  
My childhood sweetheart and I  
broke up. It's all my fault, but  
I've decided to address the  
problem by immersing myself in  
work and self-righteous denial.

In fact, I didn't  
write this.

Don't-Bug-Me  
in NYC



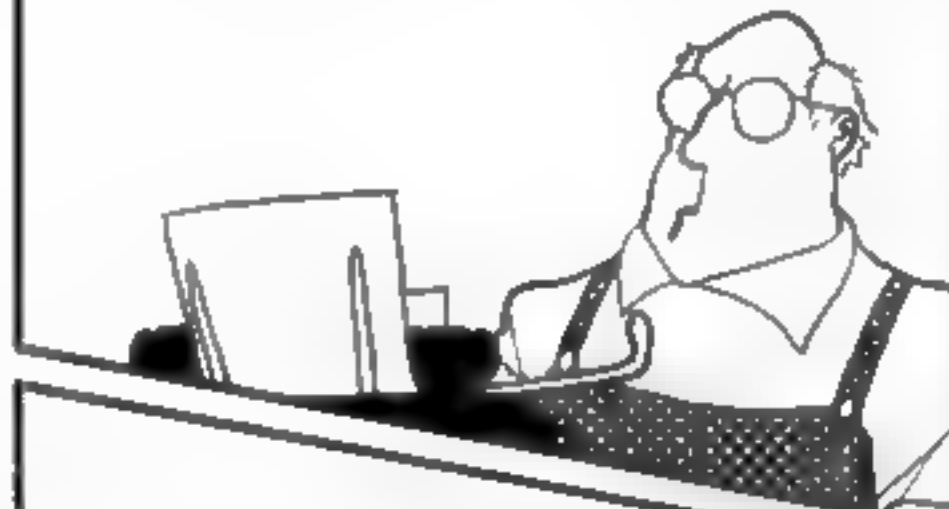
Dear Don't-Bug-Me,  
Sounds like  
a plan.



Dear Ask Auntie Ethel,  
I didn't write this.  
Return to sender.  
Deceased.



I was only saying...



Shut up.  
I said I was deceased.



You shut up.



I SAID  
SHUT UP  
FIRST!



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Brooke



*Dear Ask Auntie Ethel,  
I am what has been  
described by friends as  
a scary, predatory  
Portuguese femme fatale.  
I now have targeted for  
conquest a sweet,  
inexperienced  
male, fresh  
from a  
lovers'  
quarrel.*



Yes?...  
...And?



*Actually,  
I believe that is  
all there is  
to say.*



*Brooke*

Godspeed.





Dear Ask Auntie Ethel,  
I have broken up with my boyfriend over an issue that wouldn't have arisen if my roommate's personal life had not drawn it out.

I decided to seize the moment and dump all the blame on her rather than shoulder any of the responsibility myself.

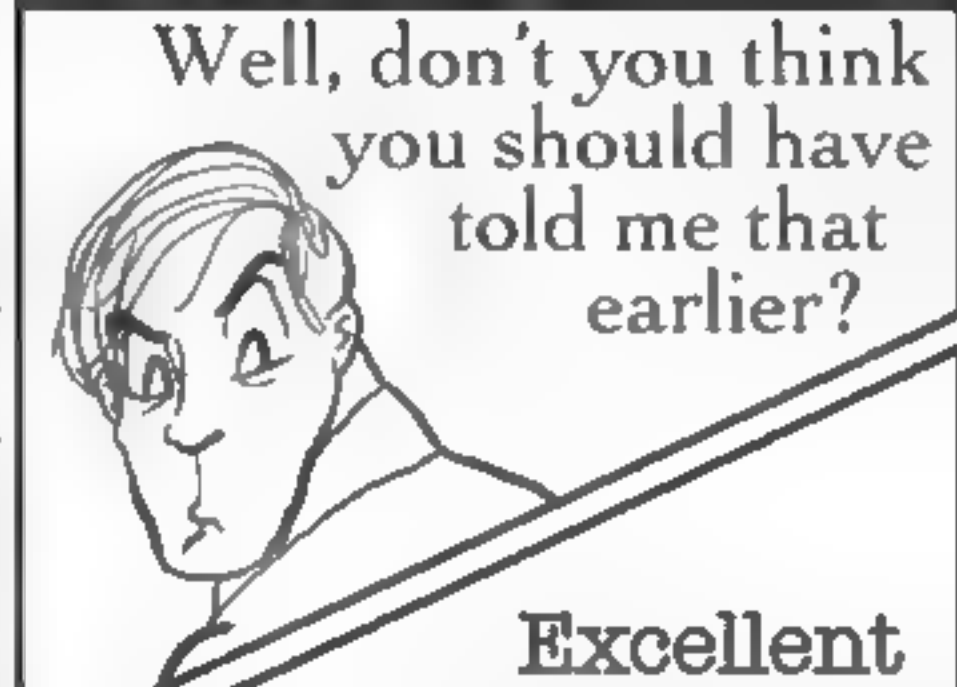
Now she and I, likewise, are not speaking. Is denying my part in events and blaming others a serviceable way to handle the problem?

Teflon Man in NYC



Dear Teflon Man,  
Making mistakes then shifting culpability to others is the coward's way out.

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Well, don't you think you should have told me that earlier?

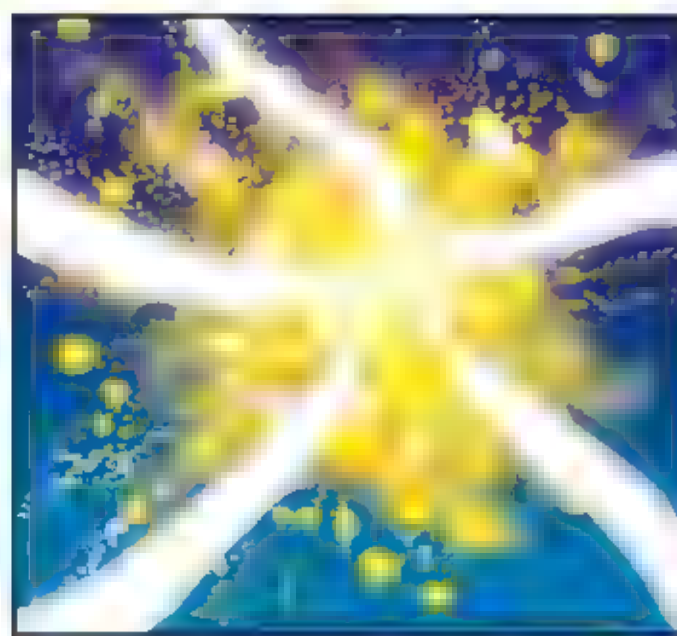
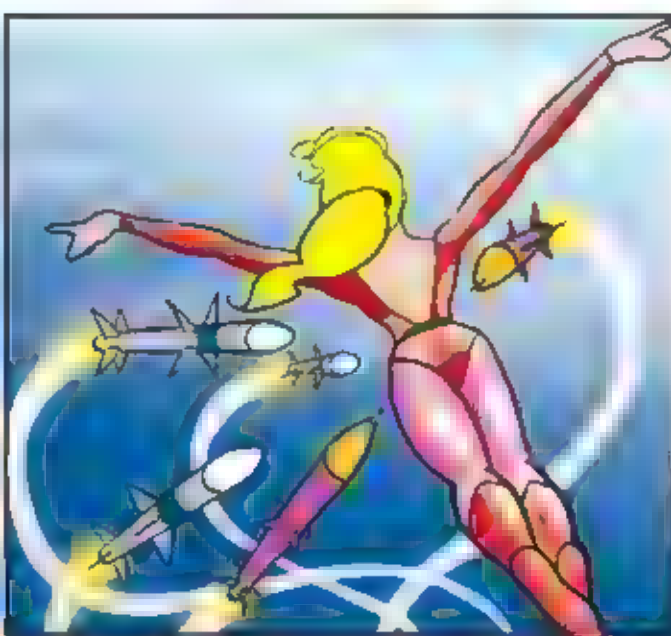
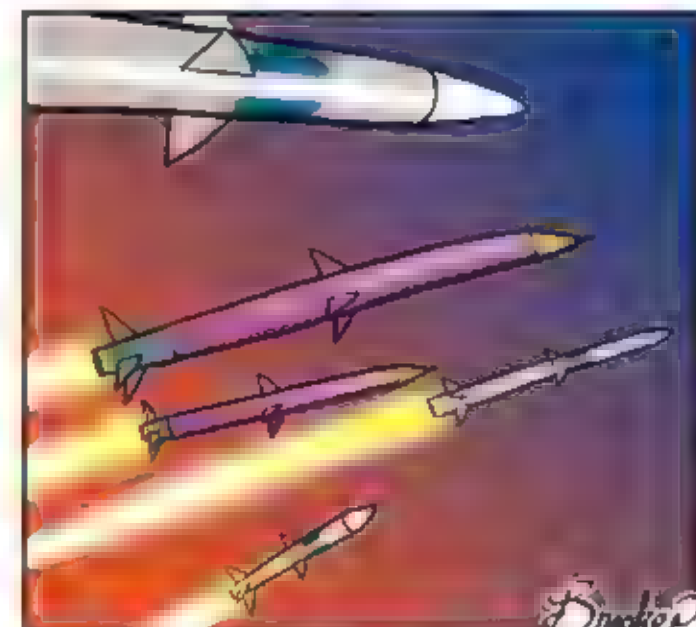
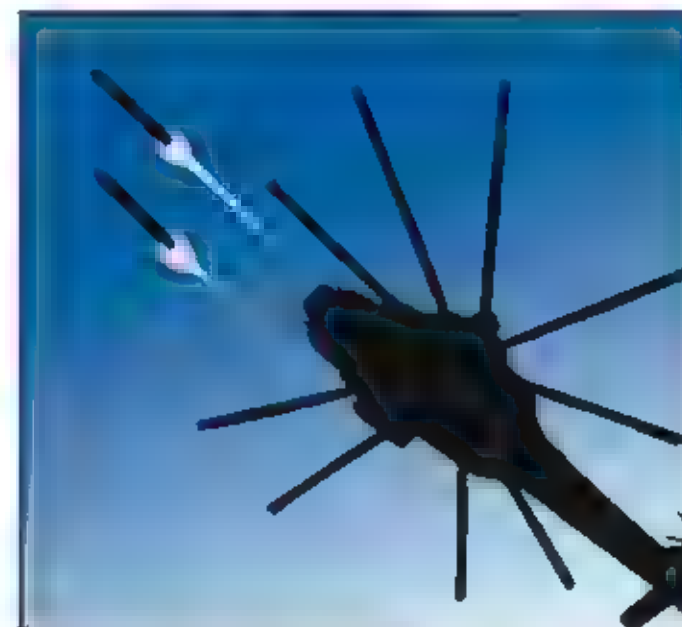
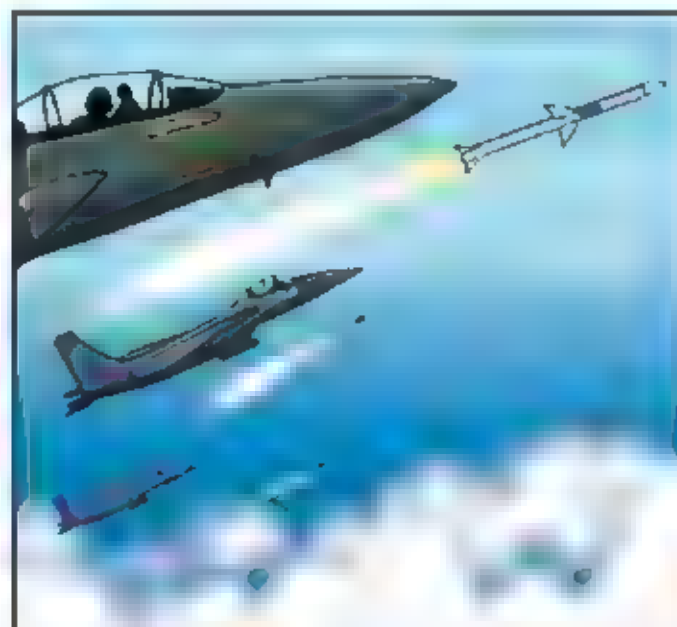
Excellent technique.  
My compliments.

Brooke

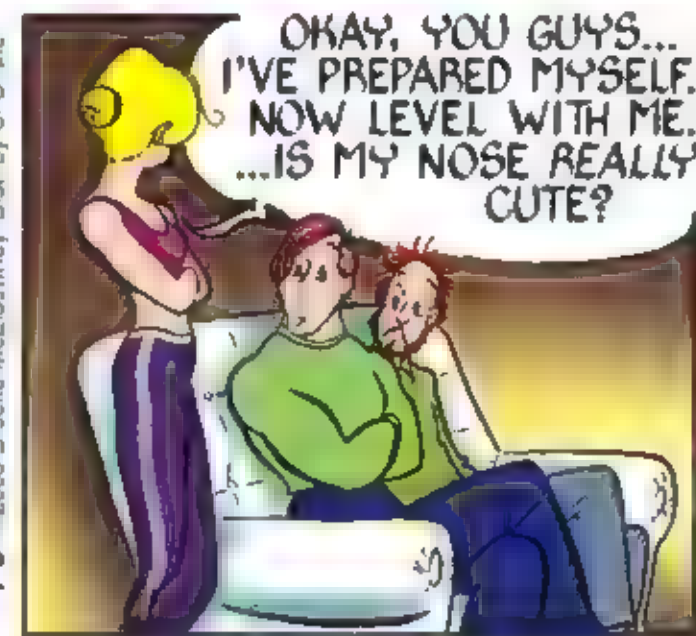
Dear Ask Auntie Ethel:

It has come to my attention that you are vending advice to the unwary under the guise of being a kindly agony aunt. Whereas, in point of fact, you are nothing but a huge, malodorous caricature of a human being, eating bonbons and stroking a pug while a stable of hack ghost writers churn out this sewer of dreck you call a column.





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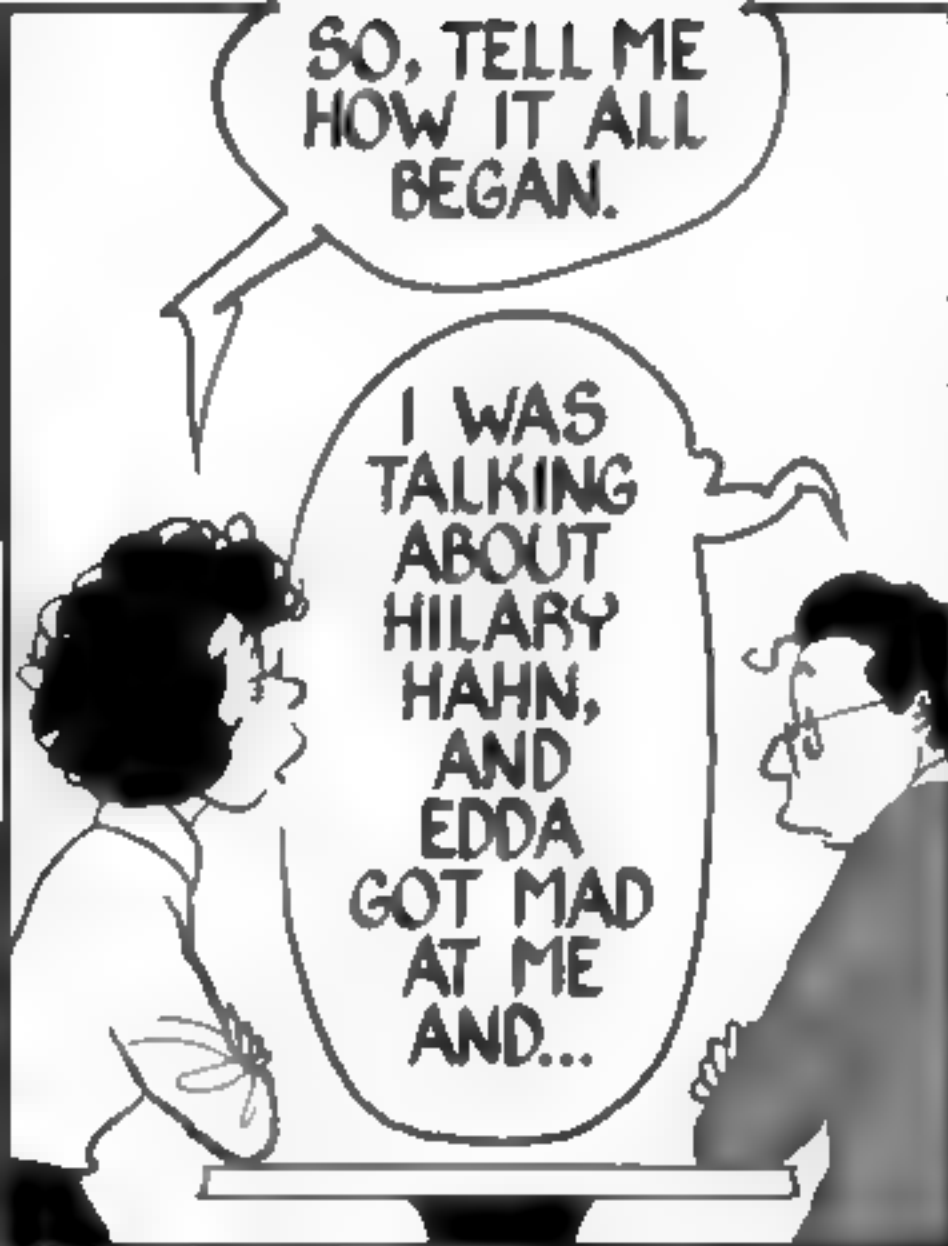


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THE THING IS, YOU'RE  
TYPHOID MARY...YOU  
BROUGHT EVERYTHING  
DOWN.



WHAT  
IS  
THAT  
PEROXIDE  
ADDLED  
MIND OF  
YOURS  
BAB-  
BLING  
ABOUT  
NOW?

IF YOU HADN'T FALLEN OUT  
WITH BURKHARDT, HE  
WOULDN'T HAVE GIVEN ME  
HIS TICKETS TO HILARY  
HAHN'S RECITAL, AND  
AMOS WOULDN'T  
HAVE OBSESSED  
ABOUT IT,  
AND WE  
WOULDN'T  
HAVE  
FALLEN  
OUT...

Brooke2



...AND SETH WOULDN'T  
HAVE COMFORTED ME AND  
MARK WOULDN'T HAVE  
ALLUDED TO AFFAIRS HE'D  
HAD, AND SETH AND HE  
WOULDN'T HAVE FALLEN OUT,  
AND EVERYONE WOULDN'T  
BE MAD AT ME.

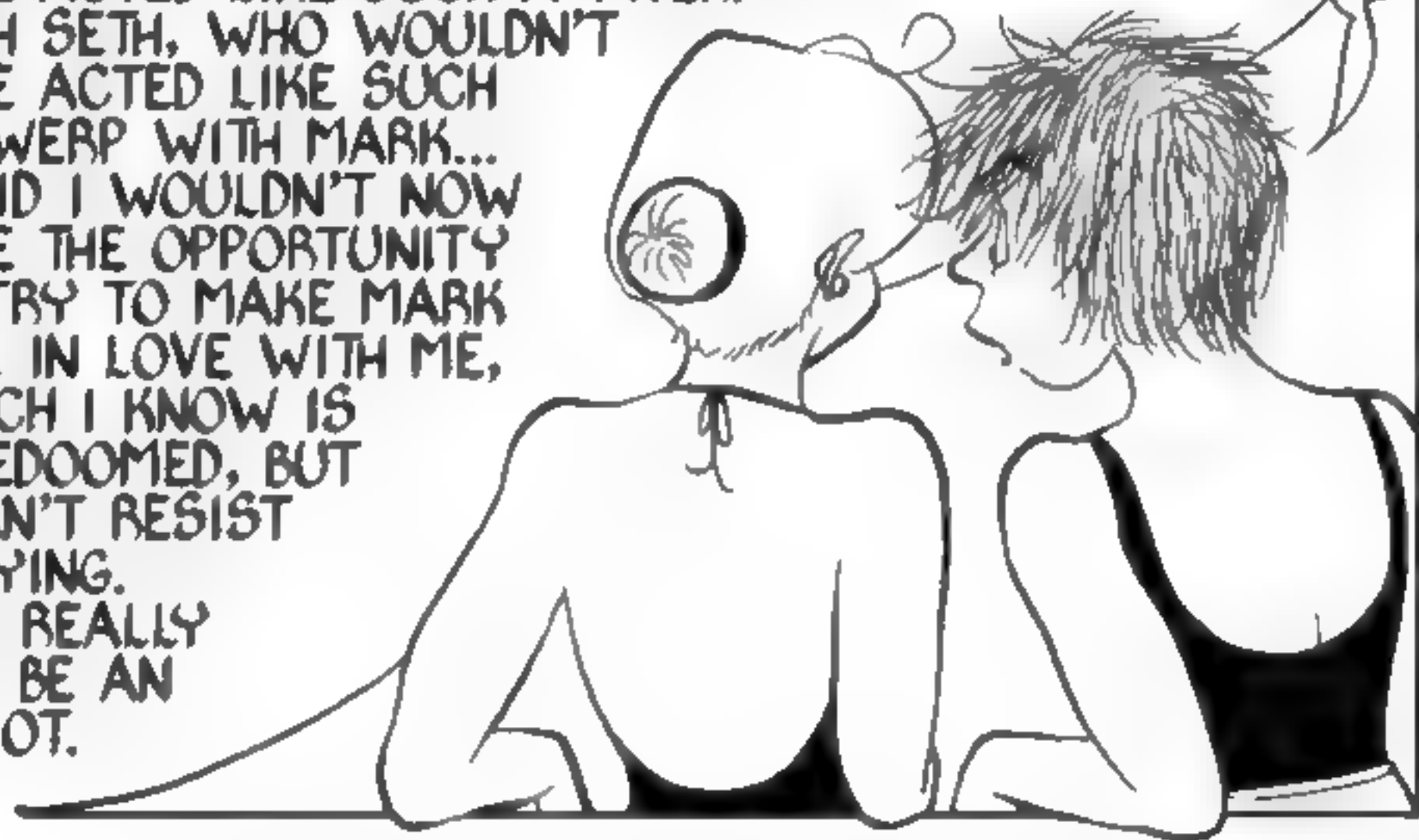


PUT THAT WAY, IT MAKES  
ME FEEL SO GUILTY....



...AND  
STRANGELY  
POWERFUL.

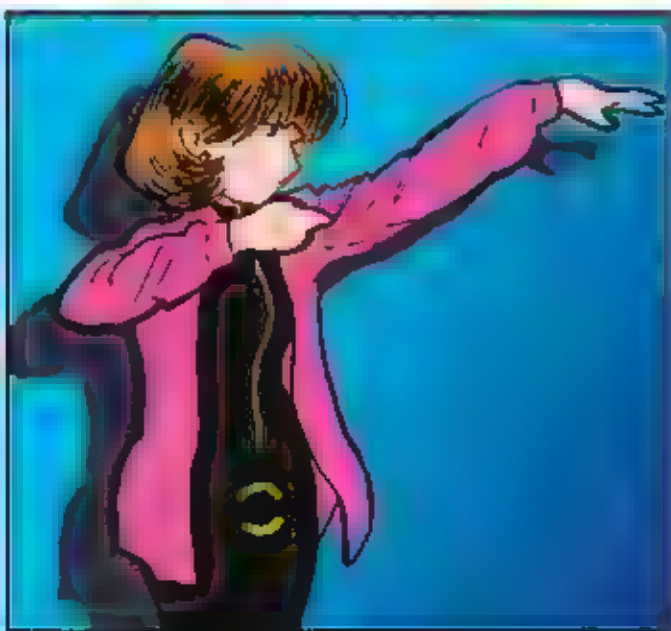
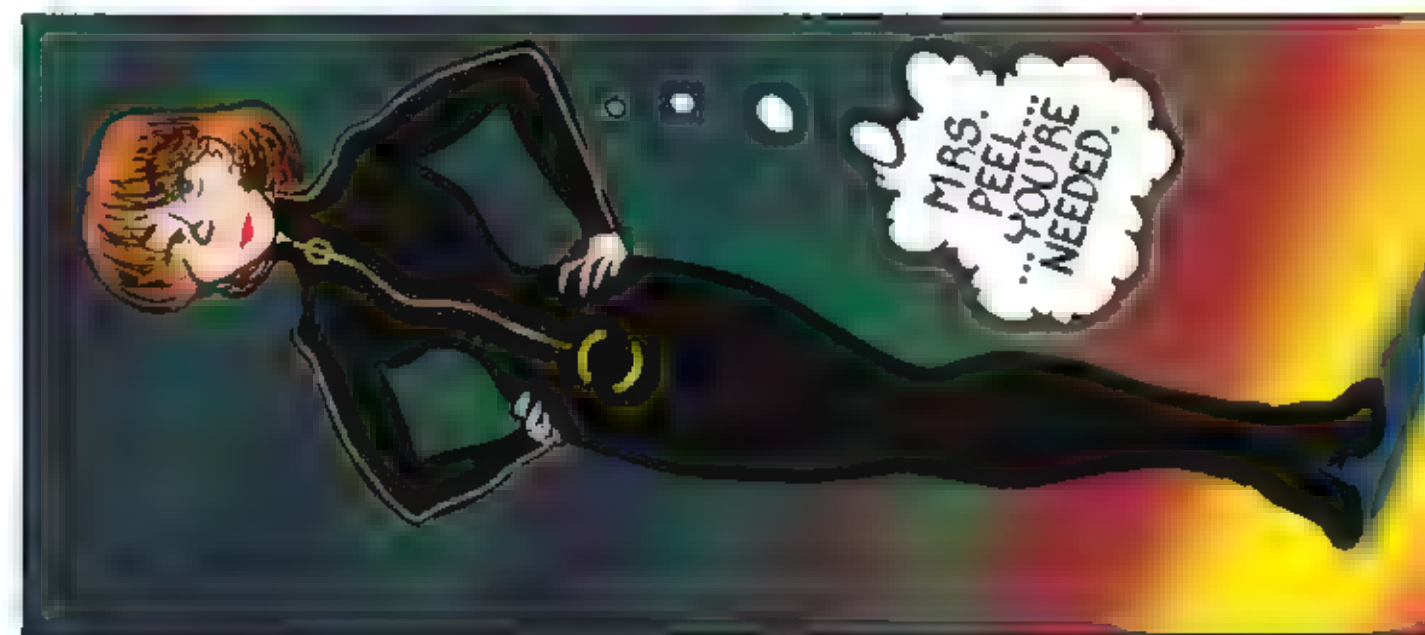
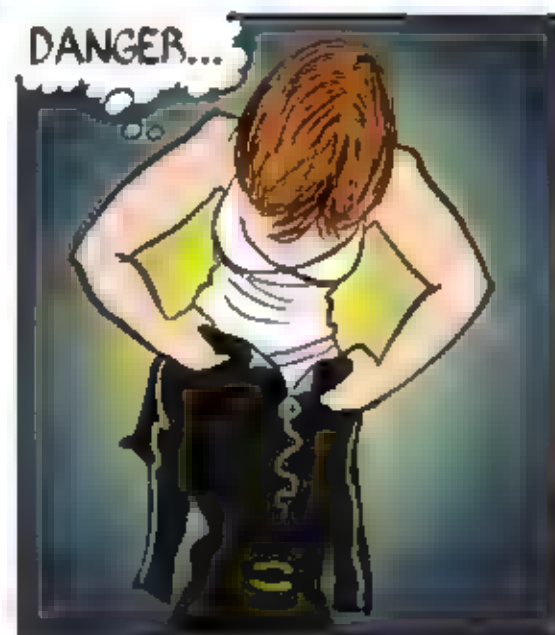
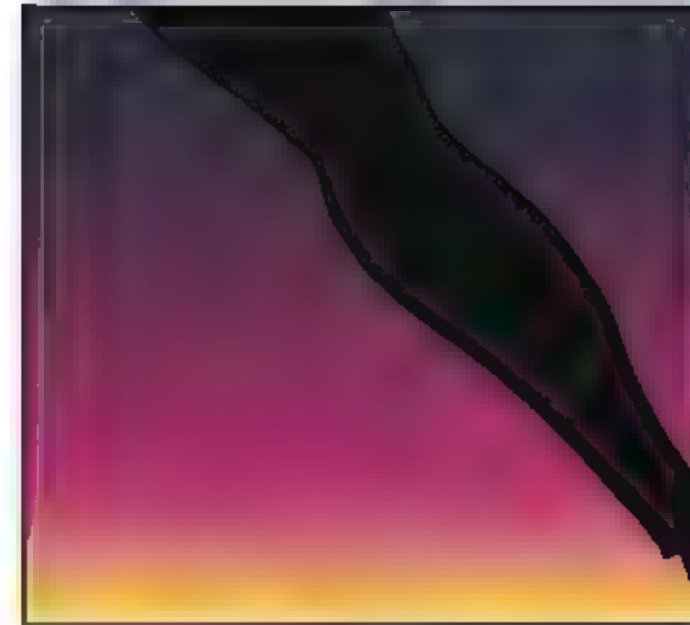
I JUST WANT TO SAY THANK YOU. IF YOU HADN'T ACTED LIKE SUCH A TWERP WITH AMOS, YOU WOULDN'T THEN HAVE ACTED LIKE SUCH A TWERP WITH SETH, WHO WOULDN'T HAVE ACTED LIKE SUCH A TWERP WITH MARK...  
...AND I WOULDN'T NOW HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO TRY TO MAKE MARK FALL IN LOVE WITH ME, WHICH I KNOW IS FOREDOOMED, BUT I CAN'T RESIST TRYING.  
YOU REALLY CAN BE AN IDIOT.



Brooke







EDDA, I NEED A WORD...  
I THINK I'D LIKE TO SWITCH  
YOU TO A NEW PARTNER,  
JUST FOR  
A WHILE,  
TO SEE HOW  
YOU TWO DO  
TOGETHER.

DOES THIS HAVE  
ANYTHING TO DO WITH  
MY LITTLE ROW  
WITH SETH?...  
BECAUSE  
WE'RE BOTH  
PROFES-  
SIONALS  
AND CAN  
KEEP OUR  
PRI-  
VATE  
LIVES  
OUT OF  
OUR  
WORK.



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SO, YOU WERE  
PARTNERED WITH  
SETH APPLEBY.  
...WHY THE  
CHANGE?

OH,  
PERSONAL  
REASONS.

"PERSONAL"?  
...MEANING,  
SETH WAS  
TRIPPING  
YOU UP?

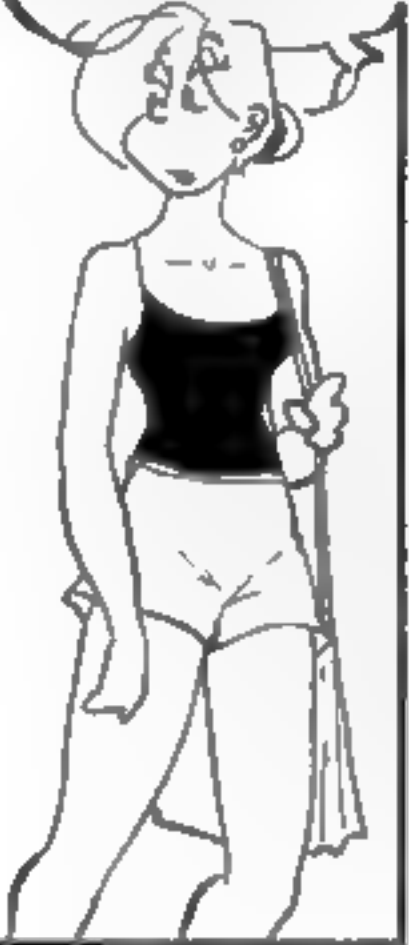
FOR YOUR INFORMATION,  
TOPO GIGIO, SETH WELCOMED  
ME INTO THIS  
COMPANY...HE IS  
A BRILLIANT  
DANCER! YOU'LL  
FIND NONE  
BETTER!

AND  
PLEASE  
DON'T  
TELL HIM  
I SAID  
THAT.



I JUST WANT  
YOU TO KNOW,  
NOT ALL MALE  
DANCERS ARE  
GAY.  
I'M LIVING  
PROOF.

THE ISSUE  
WAS NOT  
PREYING ON  
MY MIND.



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I MEAN,  
IF YOU WOULD LIKE  
PROOF...

NOT  
ESPECIALLY...



I DON'T  
MIND.

GOLLY, CLAUDIO,  
DON'T YOU HAVE  
PLACES TO GO,  
COMMUNICABLE  
DISEASES TO  
CATCH?



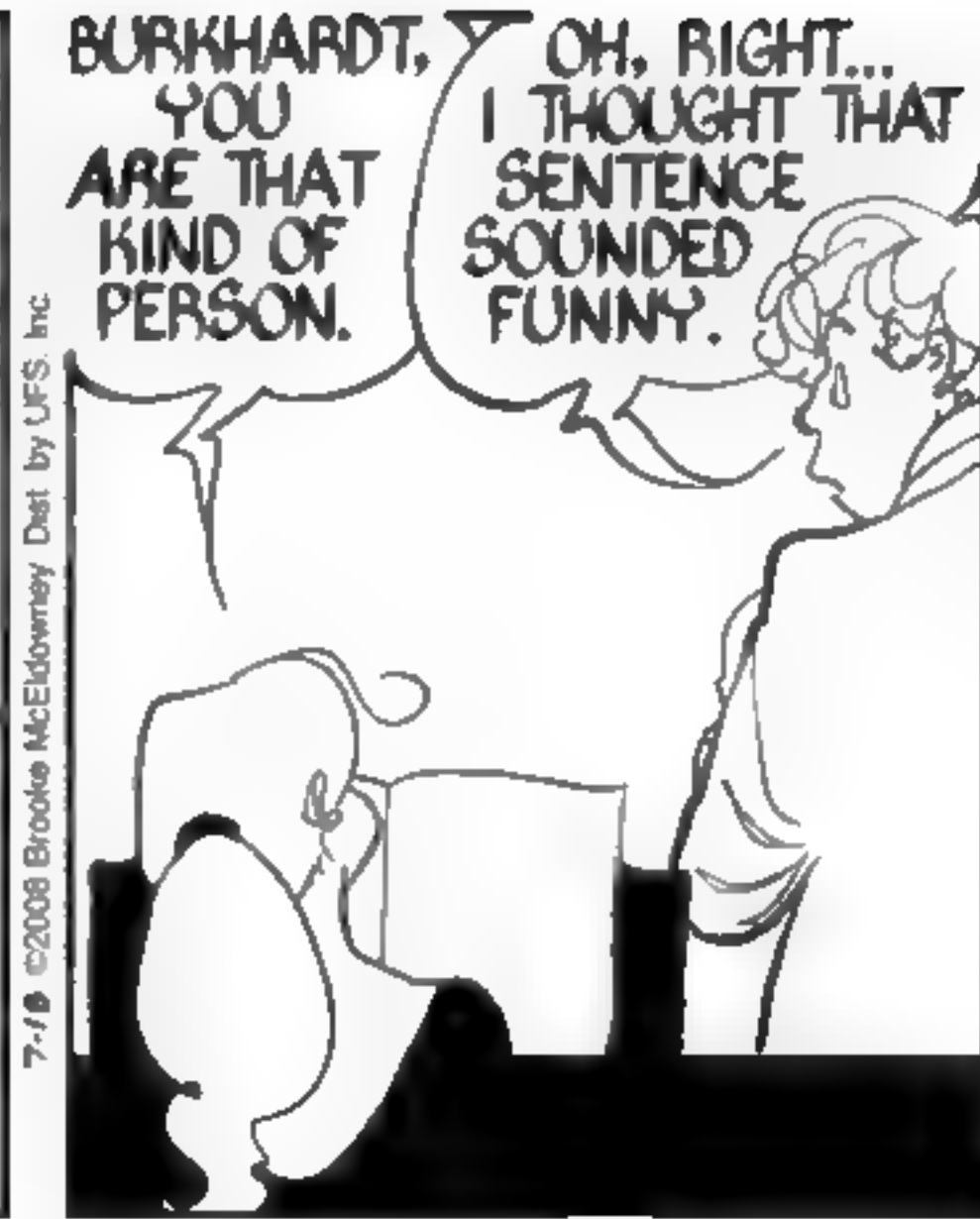
Brooke

HE WANTED  
TO PROVE  
HE ISN'T  
GAY?  
UM...  
...HOW?

EVIDENTLY,  
HE KEEPS  
A BOOK OF  
NOTARIZED  
TESTIMONIALS.





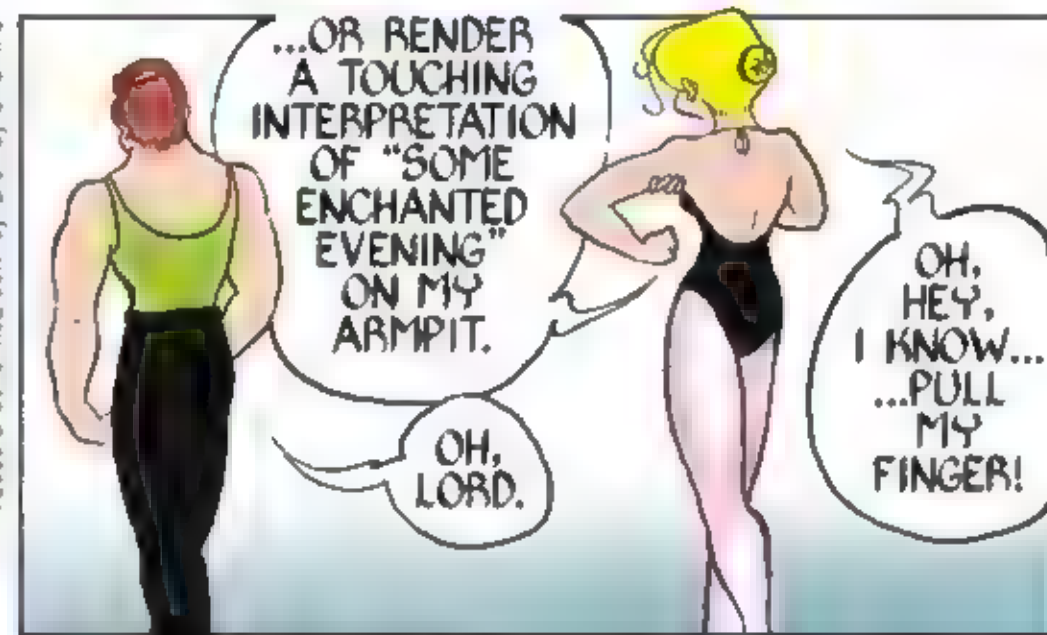
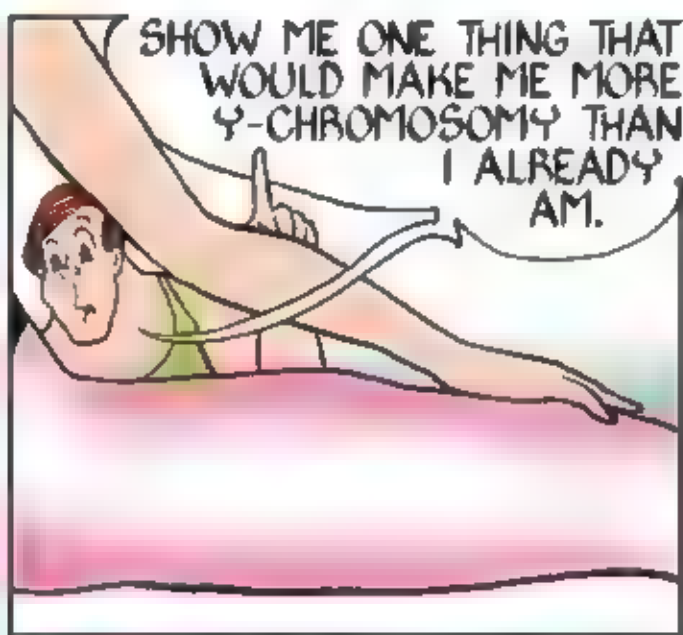
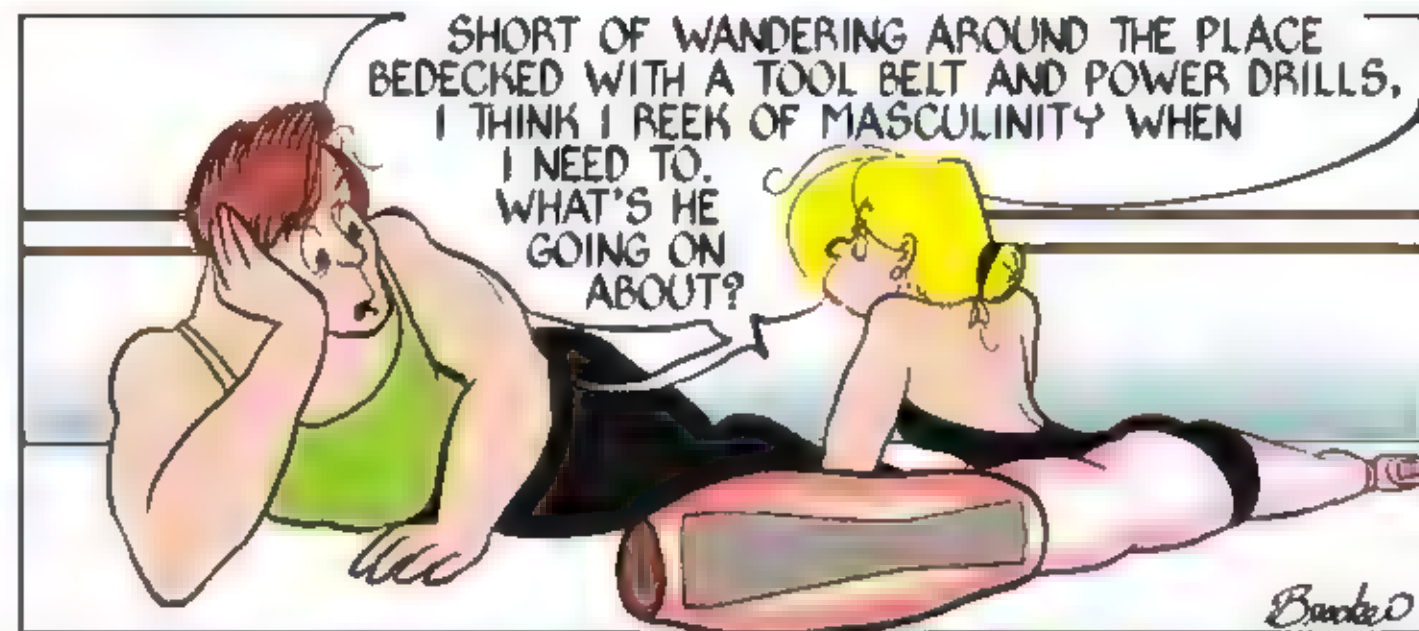
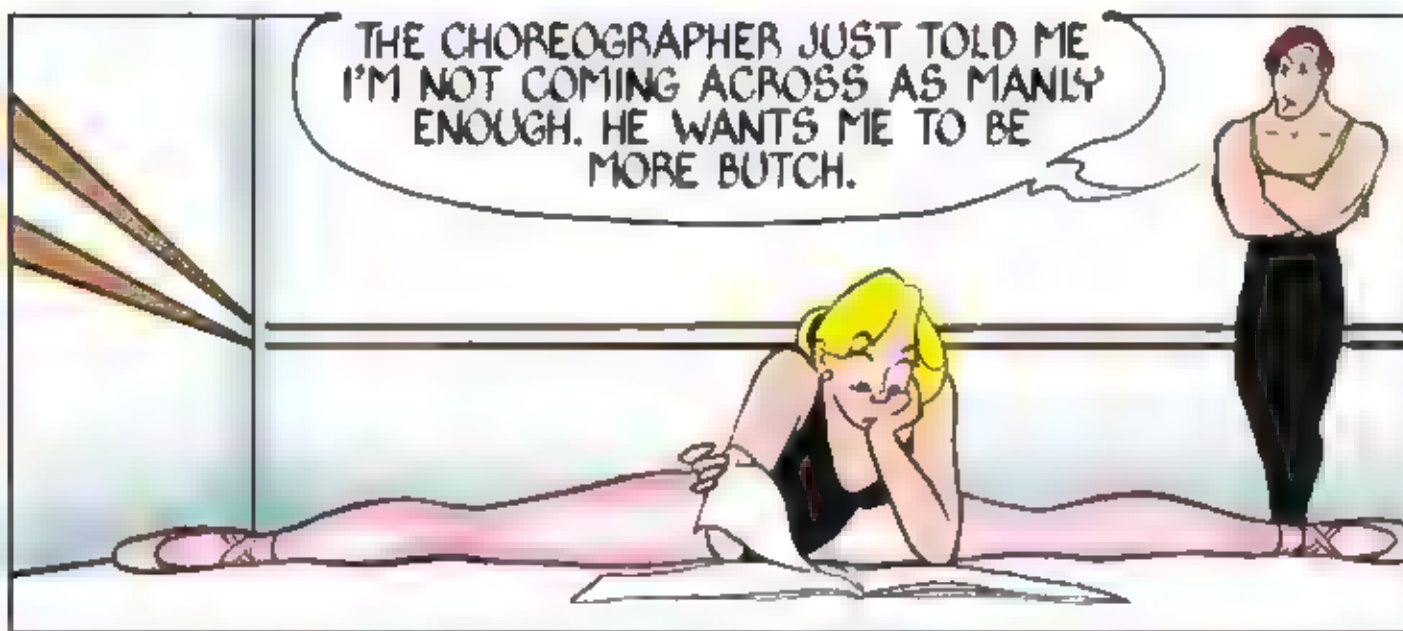


EDDA'S A GREAT PARTNER.  
SHE'S SWEET AND SEXY,  
AND WE REALLY  
COOK TOGETHER.  
AFTER I'VE FELT  
A GIRL LIKE HER  
IN MY HANDS,  
I CAN'T  
HELP BUT  
THINK  
THAT  
GUYS  
LIKE YOU  
DON'T  
KNOW  
WHAT  
YOU'RE  
FORFEITING.

BECAUSE  
I'M GAY?  
OH, I KNOW  
WHAT I'M  
FORFEITING.

GUYS  
LIKE  
YOU.

# 9 CHICKWEED LANE









I NOTICE, SETH, THAT MOST OF YOU GUYS SHAVE  
YOUR CHESTS. I DON'T BECAUSE I THINK  
A HAIRY CHEST ADDS A WELCOME  
NOTE OF VIRILITY TO DANCE...  
MASCULINITY...  
AN AURA  
OF...  
OF...



COCKER  
SPANIEL?



A LITTLE WARNING LIGHT  
SHOULD GO OFF IN HER  
MOUTH WHEN SHE'S  
ABOUT TO  
OPEN IT.



SORT OF  
LIKE A  
REFRIGER-  
ATOR?



I WISH THERE WERE  
SOME WAY I COULD  
GET CLAUDIO TO  
KEEP HIS HANDS  
TO HIMSELF  
WHILE WE'RE  
WORKING.



BUT...UM...EDDA...  
...HE IS YOUR DANCE  
PARTNER. HE HAS  
TO BE ABLE  
TO SUPPORT  
YOU WITH  
HIS HANDS.  
THAT'S PART  
OF THE ART  
OF BALLET.



WELL, AS  
FAR AS I'M  
CONCERNED,  
THERE'S  
ONE BIG  
FLAW  
IN  
THE  
ART  
OF  
BALLET.  
...ONE  
HUGE,  
INTERNA-  
TIONAL  
GLITCH.



HANDS?

CLAUDIO.

HALLMARKS OF  
FELINITY

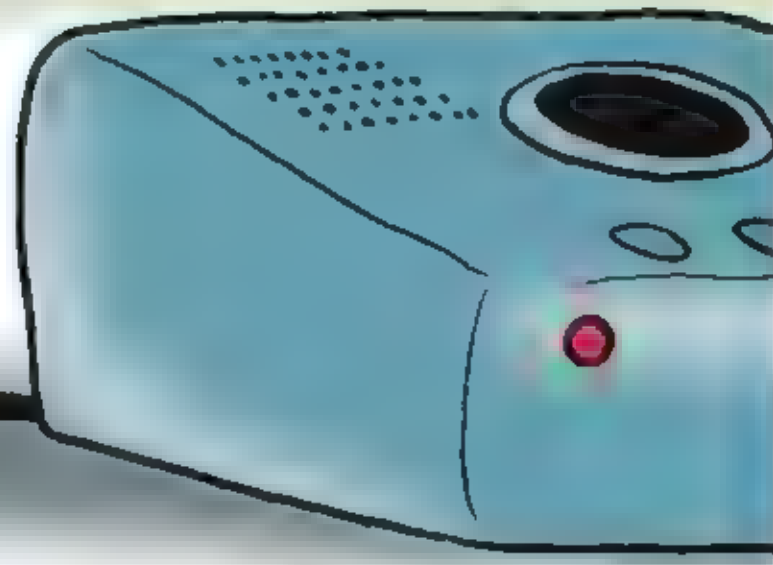


SOUL OF  
THE FEROCIOUS  
JUNGLE  
PREDATOR





click...



BLUGGIT...



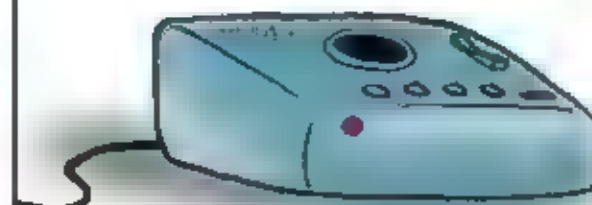
...YUHLHIGGA WALYUMA  
FLIMUMMLYMB...



...WYLYUMBUOP  
GLYIUBBMUBGA  
WALYAMBIBGA...



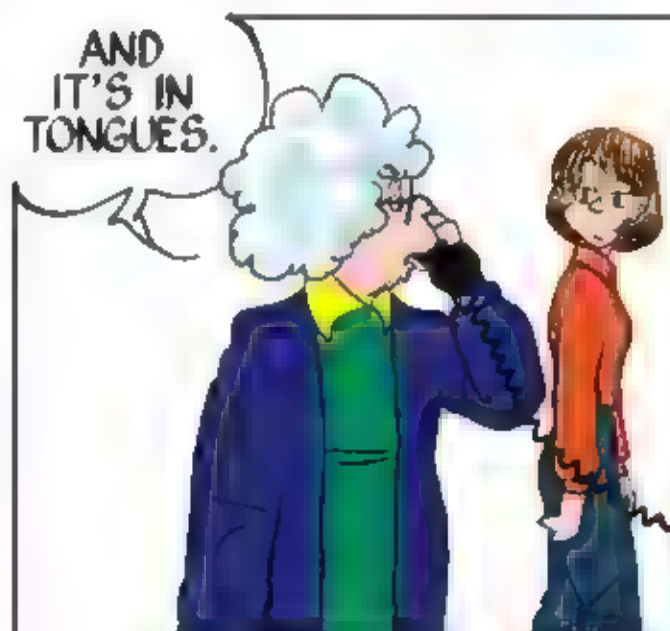
...GORAL BLPYAGGA  
GOBBBAGLYARGA...



...HUAMMHA  
WLUB  
POXALYAPOOGA...



...YOAMBGARYLLAMNOO  
FROLLLLLRAMTYMBA  
FRYLLLLLLLLLLFA  
BOOG...

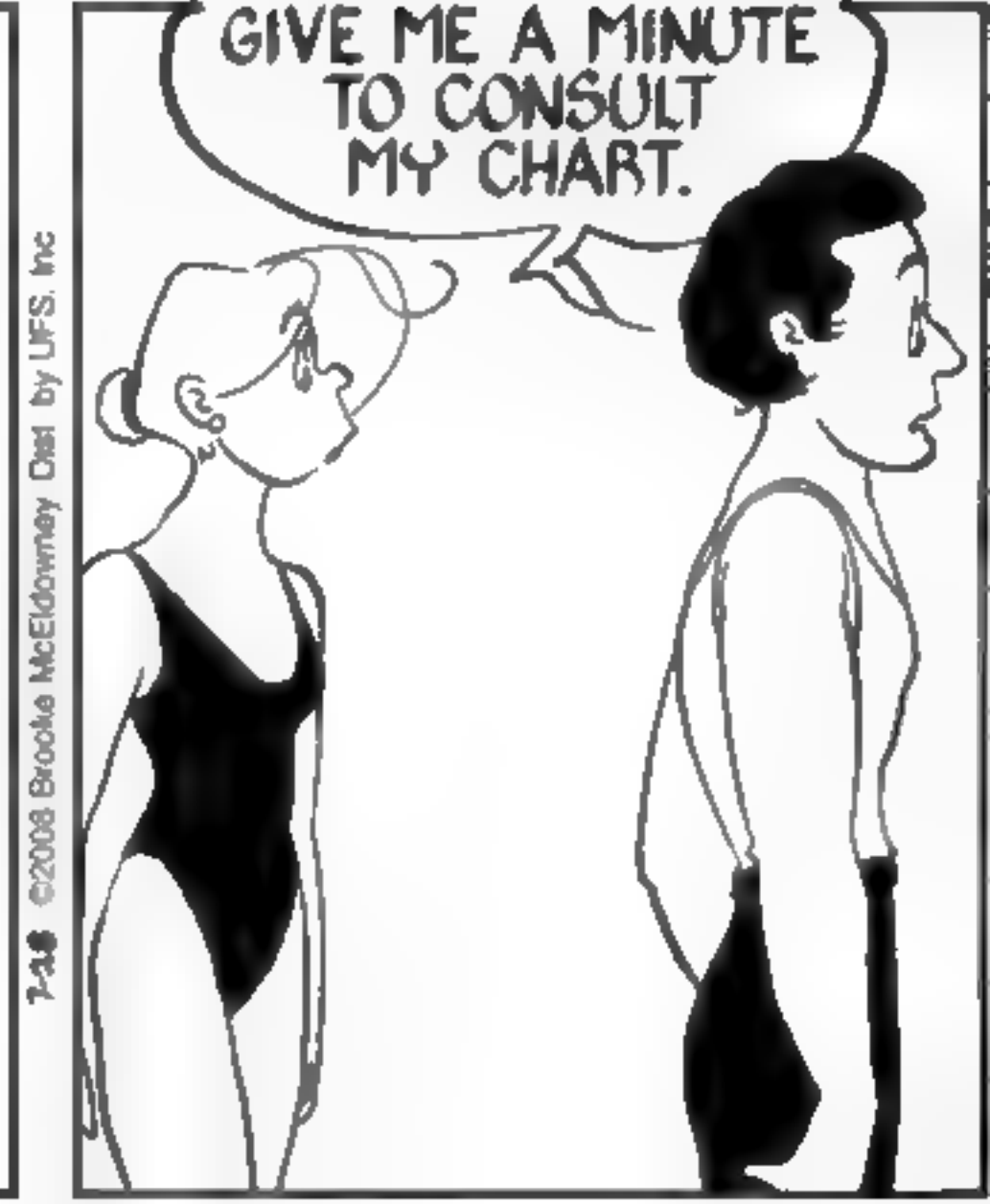


...HAHAUM MAGOMBA  
WLYMMMMTHLLLB...  
...PLEASE LEAVE YOUR  
MESSAGE AFTER THE TONE.

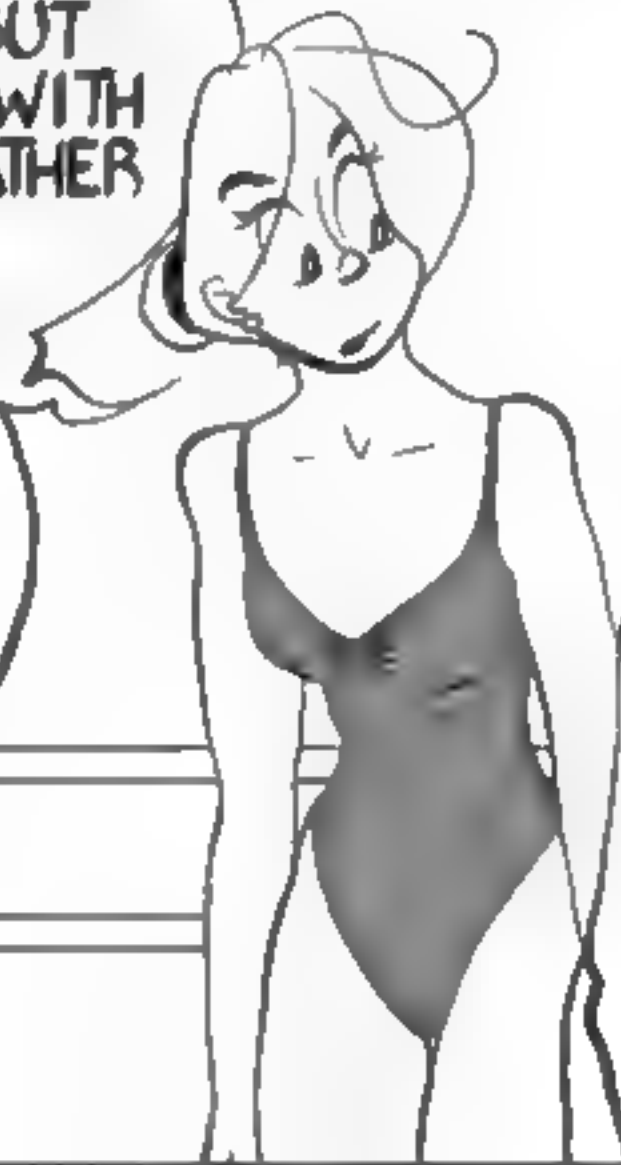


...beeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee





LOOK, I DON'T WISH  
TO COMPLAIN, BUT  
WHEN I DANCE WITH  
CLAUDIO, I'D RATHER  
HIS HANDS  
WERE ENGAGED  
IN BALLET  
PERFORMANCE  
THAN A  
TOPOGRAPHICAL  
ANALYSIS  
OF MY  
PERSON.



LET ME EXPLAIN  
TO HIM THE  
FINER POINTS  
OF OUR  
CUSTOMS.



*Brooke*



CLAUDIO  
STOP!

BAD  
CLAUDIO!

BAD  
BAD  
CLAUDIO!

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WAS THE ROLLED-UP  
NEWSPAPER REALLY  
NECESSARY?



WITH  
SOME  
MALE  
DANCERS,  
YOU HAVE  
TO SPEAK  
A  
LANGUAGE  
THEY  
UNDER-  
STAND.





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ABOUT THIS LIST OF PEOPLE  
SETH SAID YOU  
DALLIED WITH...  
...WAS I  
ON IT?

SWEETIE,  
HE WAS  
BEING  
PARANOID...  
...NOT  
INSANE.

I'VE ALWAYS LOVED YOU  
FOR YOUR  
HONESTY  
AND FORTH-  
RIGHTNESS,  
SO I SUPPOSE  
I HAVE TO  
ACCEPT  
THAT.

I THOUGHT  
YOU  
LOVED ME  
FOR MY  
HAIR!

ALL RIGHT...I ADMIT...  
IT WAS BECAUSE OF YOUR  
HAIR.

FOR  
A MOMENT  
I WONDERED  
WHERE YOUR  
PRIORITIES  
WERE.

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Brooke

OH, LORD...THERE'S SETH!  
HE'S SEEN ME, AND HERE  
I AM WITH A GIRL.  
HE'S GOING TO  
JUST KNOW  
I WAS LYING  
ABOUT  
HAVING  
LIAISONS!

QUICK!...THINK TONY  
AND MARIA, AND HOLD  
YOUR BREATH!

Boake



DIBS  
ON  
TONY.

DIBS  
ON  
TONY.



HALLMARKS OF  
FELINITY



PROWL



PROWL

*Brooke*



CUTE

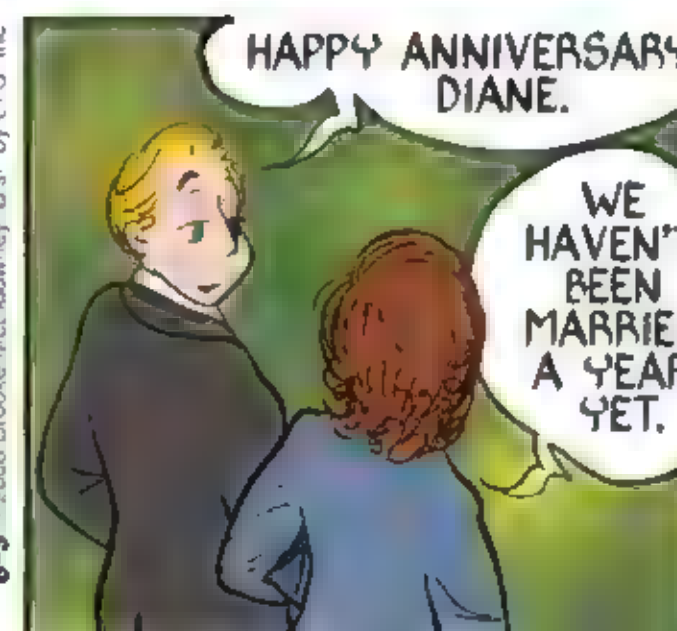
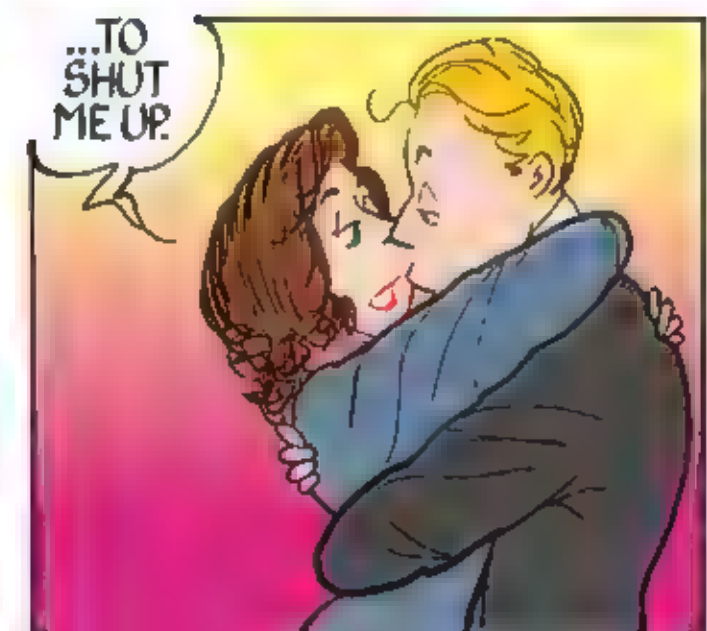
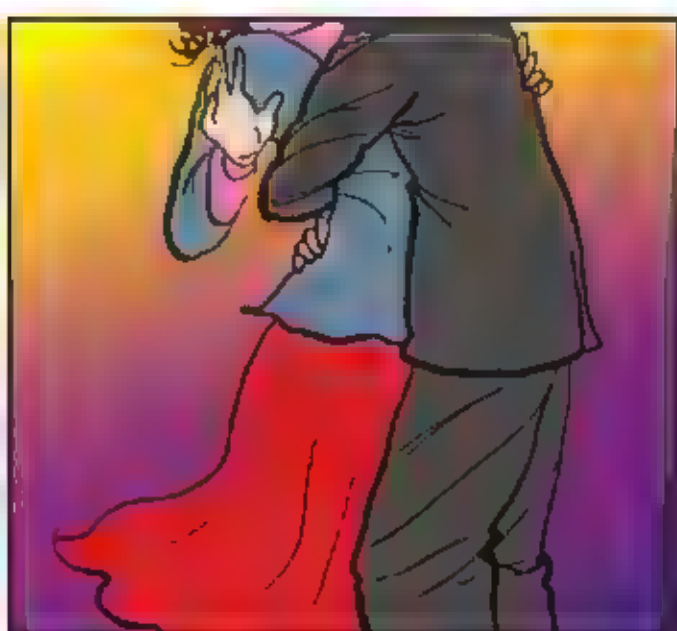
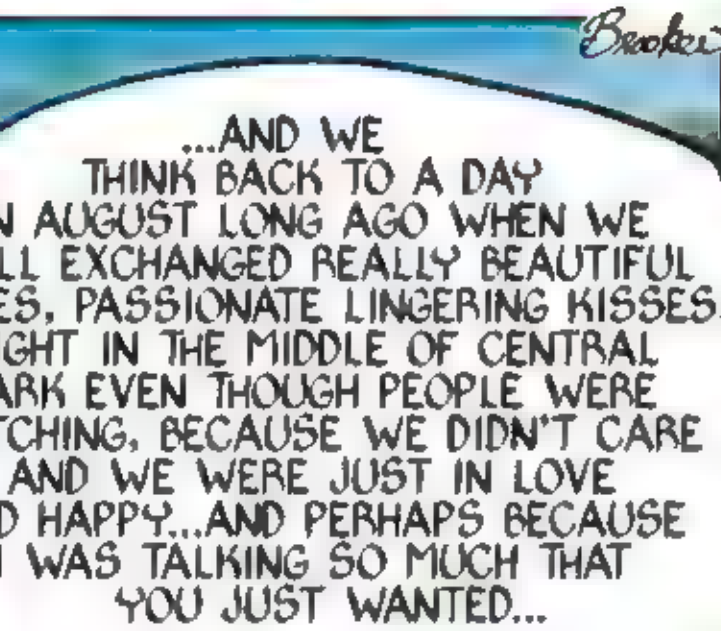
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\*PROWL-PROWL-  
CUTE-PROWL™

\*AVAILABLE AT  
ALL PARTICIPATING  
CATS

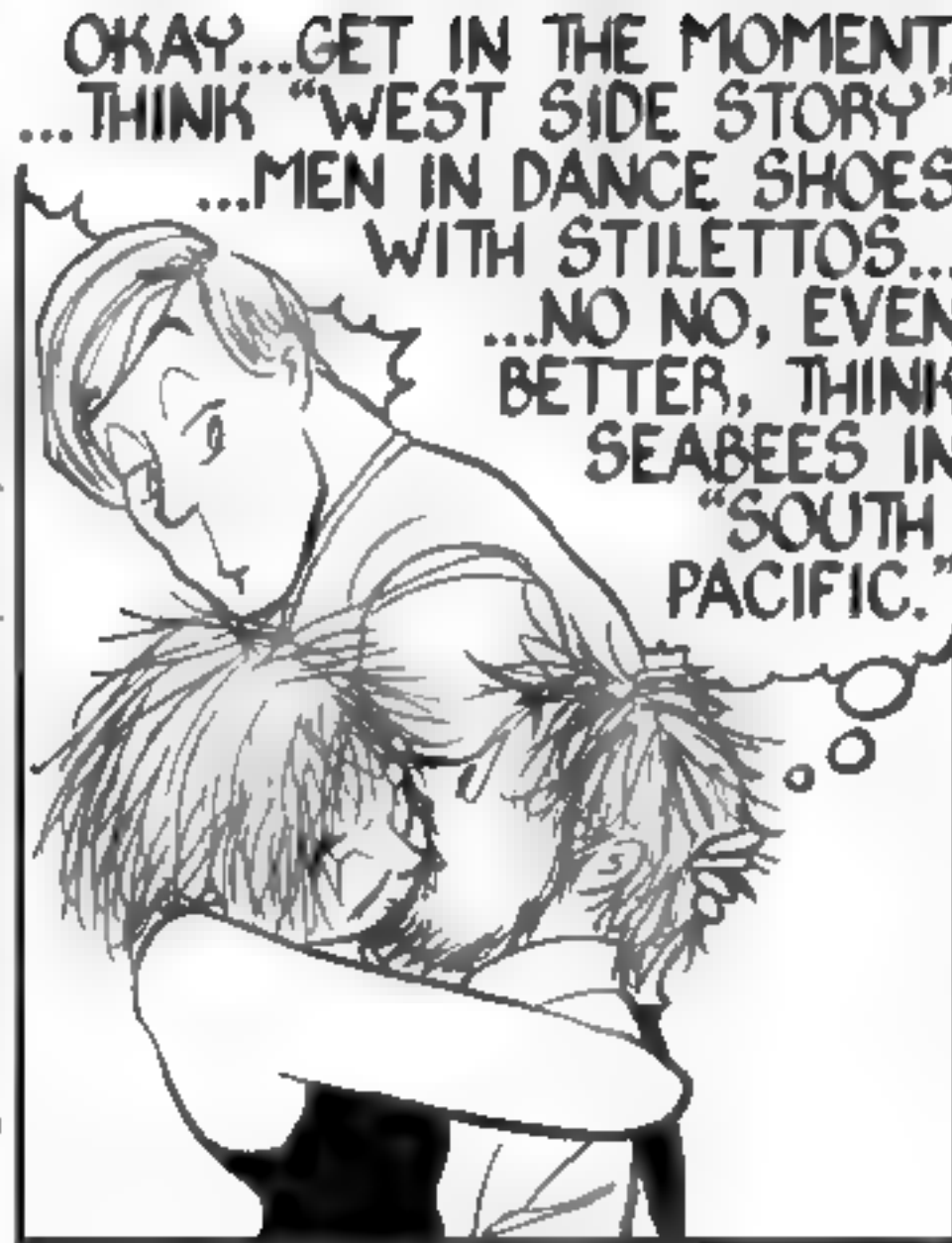
PROWL

# 9 CHICKWEED LANE



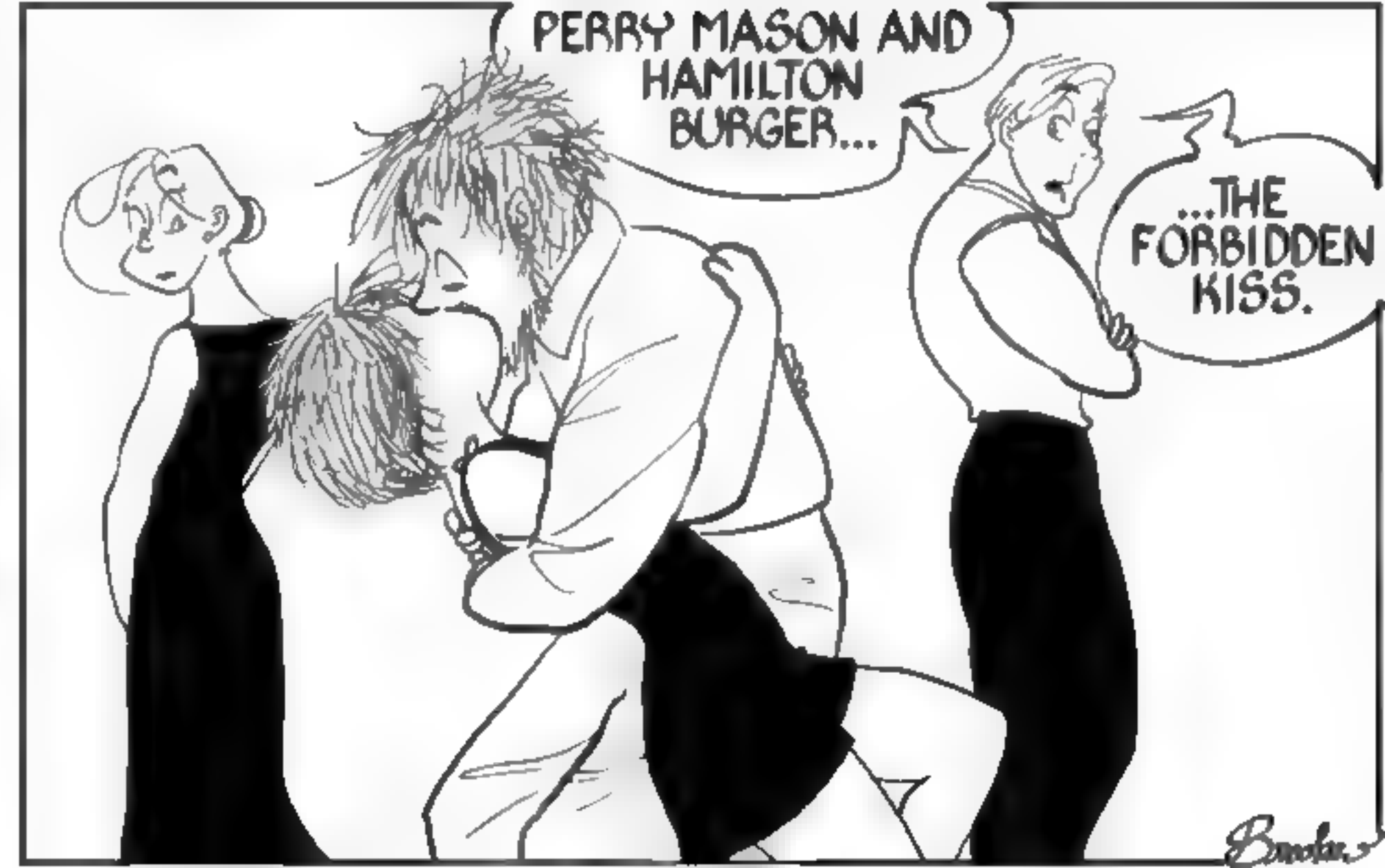


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Brooke



WELL, AMOS, I THINK WE'RE  
PRETTY MUCH PREPARED  
FOR THE FORRESTIER  
COMPETITION.  
HAVE YOU  
MADE YOUR  
HOTEL  
RESERVATIONS?

UM...NO.  
I NEVER  
THOUGHT  
OF THAT.



THERE'S A SURPRISE.  
JUST LET ME TAKE CARE  
OF IT. I KNOW THE  
PERFECT HOTEL  
IN BRUSSELS.  
I'LL BOOK FOR  
BOTH OF US.



BRUSSELS...

COMPETITION...

BOTH  
OF  
US...



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Brooke

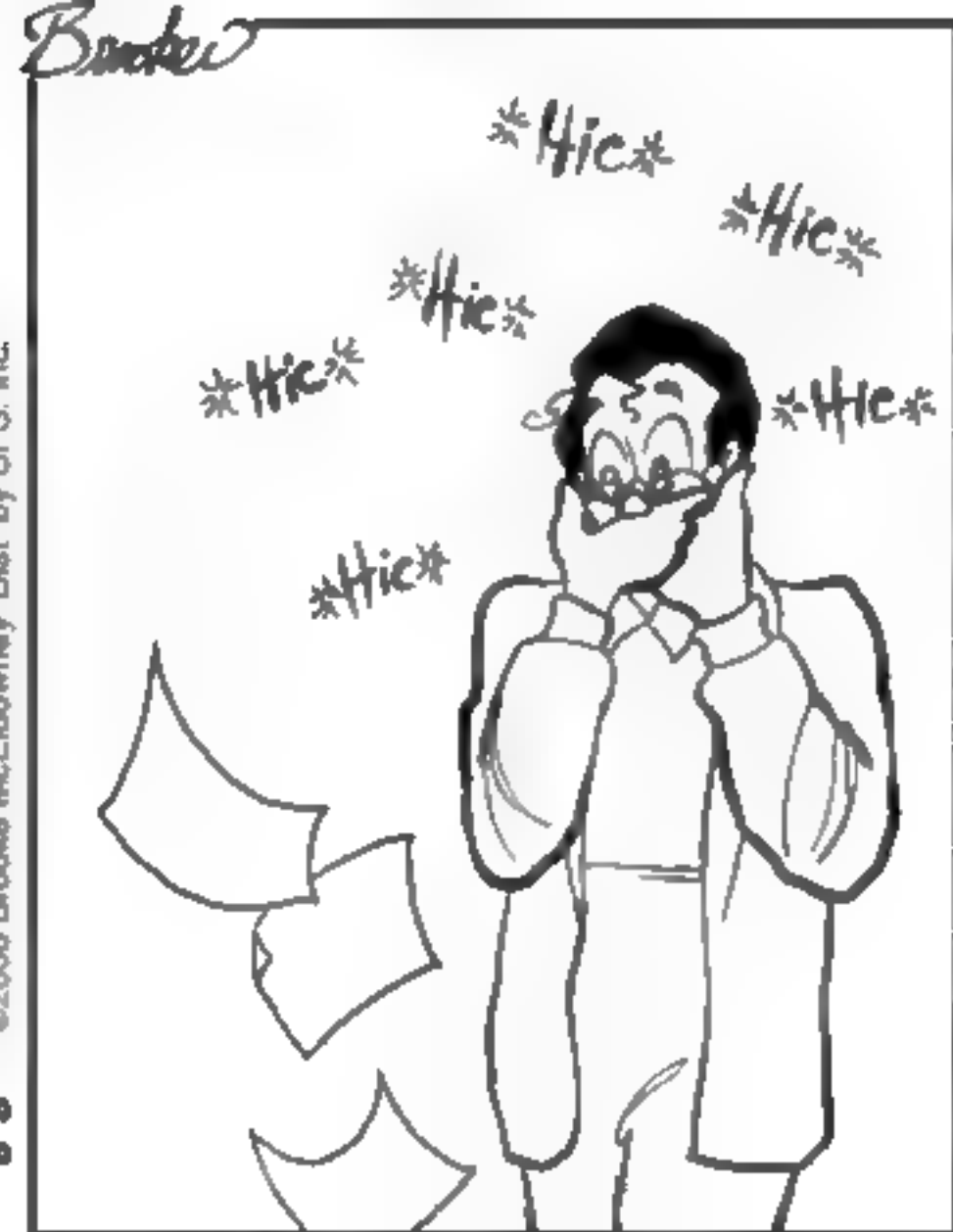
\*Hic\*



OKAY...I BOOKED YOUR  
HOTEL ROOM IN BRUSSELS.  
THIS IS THE RESERVATION  
NUMBER, AND OUR DATES.  
I ALSO BOOKED THE FLIGHT.  
WE'RE ALL  
SET.



I'D WISH US BOTH LUCK FOR  
THE COMPETITION, BUT AS  
YOU KNOW, WHEN I'M  
INVOLVED, GETTING  
LUCKY IS  
NEVER AN  
ISSUE.



# HALLMARKS OF FELINITY



"TO EXPLORE  
STRANGE NEW  
WORLDS..."



"...TO SEEK OUT  
NEW LIFE, NEW  
CIVILIZATIONS..."



*Brooke*

"...TO BOLDLY GO  
WHERE NO ONE  
HAS GONE  
BEFORE."





HEADSMAN'S



AXE



CHEST  
X-RAY



STILETTO

HALLMARKS  
OF FELINITY:  
WHAT HAVE THESE  
ORDINARY HOUSEHOLD  
ITEMS IN COMMON?

OLD  
DISTRIBUTOR  
CAP



BOTTLE OF  
CRANBERRY  
JUICE  
FROM  
CONCENTRATE



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GUN

Brooke

GARDENING WELLIES



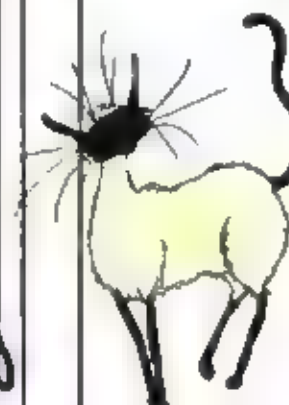
DEAD  
CARTOONIST



REFRIGERATOR



ANSWER:  
A CAT WILL AFFECTIONATELY  
RUB AGAINST ANY AND ALL  
OF THESE ITEMS.



(ONE POSSIBLE  
EXCEPTION IS THE  
DEAD CARTOONIST  
WHICH, IF NOT  
LEFT TOO LONG,  
IS POTENTIALLY  
EDIBLE.  
LACKING THAT,  
THE CAT WILL JUST  
RUB AGAINST IT.)

I HAVE  
ESTABLISHED  
THIS SQUARE  
ON THE FLOOR  
AS THE  
COMMENTARY-  
FREE ZONE  
OF OUR  
APARTMENT.  
WHEN WE  
STEP INTO IT,  
NOTHING  
MAY BE SAID  
OF A CRITICAL  
NATURE.



...NO  
OBLIQUE REFERENCES  
TO ONE'S TASTES IN  
GREEN ATTIRE...  
NO CONSTRUCTIVE  
CRITICISM...  
...NO  
HELPFUL  
ASIDES...



BUT  
WHAT  
ELSE CAN  
WE DO IN  
THERE?



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SOMETIMES  
I REALLY LOVE  
YOUR  
STUPID  
IDEAS.



SH.  
YOU'RE  
IN  
THE  
ZONE.

Brooke





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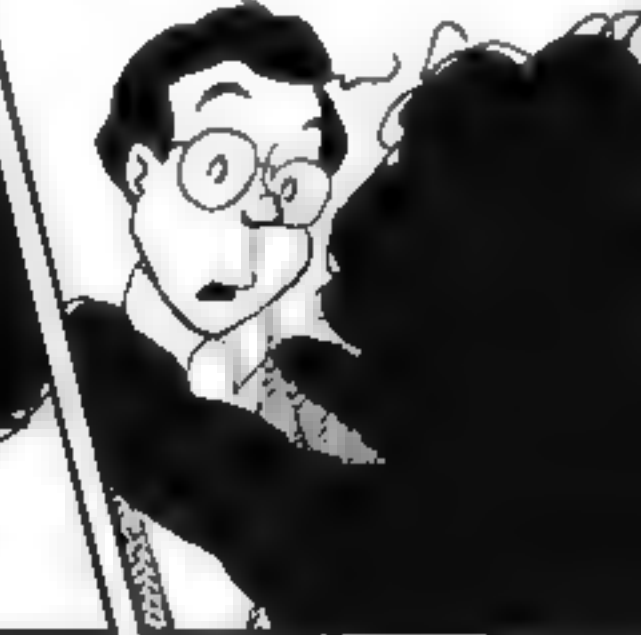


NOW THAT LITTLE MISS  
RAMROD IS A THING OF  
THE PAST, PERHAPS IT  
IS TIME WE BECAME A  
BIT MORE INTIMATE.



EXCUSE  
ME, I...

\*Hic\*



Brooke

EXCUSE  
M-\*

\*Hic\*



EXC-\*

\*Hic\*



EX-\*

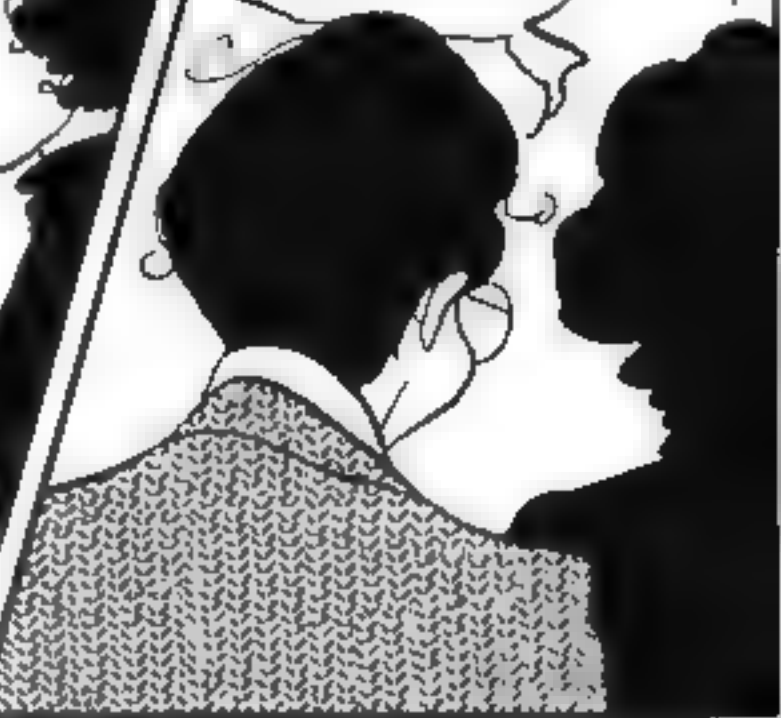
\*Hic\*



MAYBE I  
SHOULD JUST  
TRY SCARING  
YOU.

YOU  
ALREADY  
DO THA-

\*Hic\*



I WISH WE COULD  
BE PARTNERS  
AGAIN.



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THINK OF THIS AS A  
GROWING EXPERIENCE,  
A CHANCE TO WORK  
WITH ANOTHER PARTNER.  
IT'S A GOOD THING.  
YOU'LL LEARN  
A LOT.



OH,  
GOODY.

YOU MUST BE SETH. WE'VE  
BEEN PAIRED UP...I'M ELENA.  
I STUDY PRIVATELY WITH  
NIJINSKY ON  
MY OUIJA  
BOARD.

HAVE YOU  
EVER EXPERIENCED  
A CAPPUCCINO  
ENEMA?



*Backed*



OH,  
EDDA...



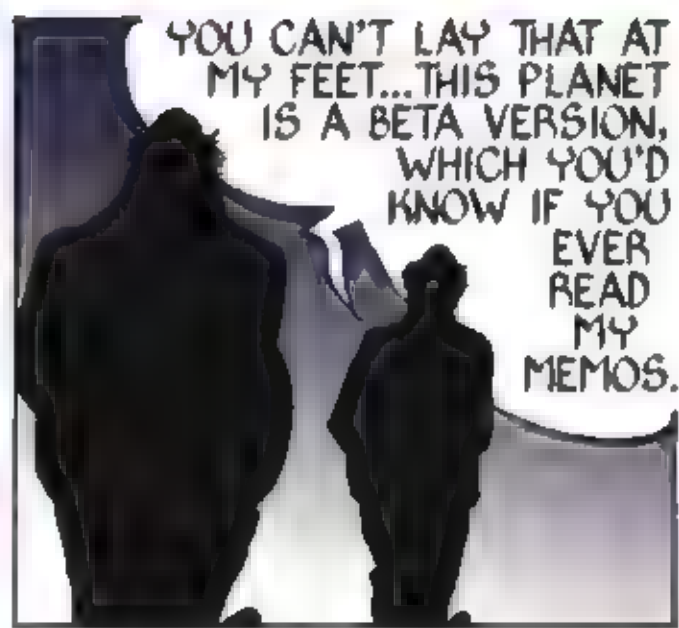
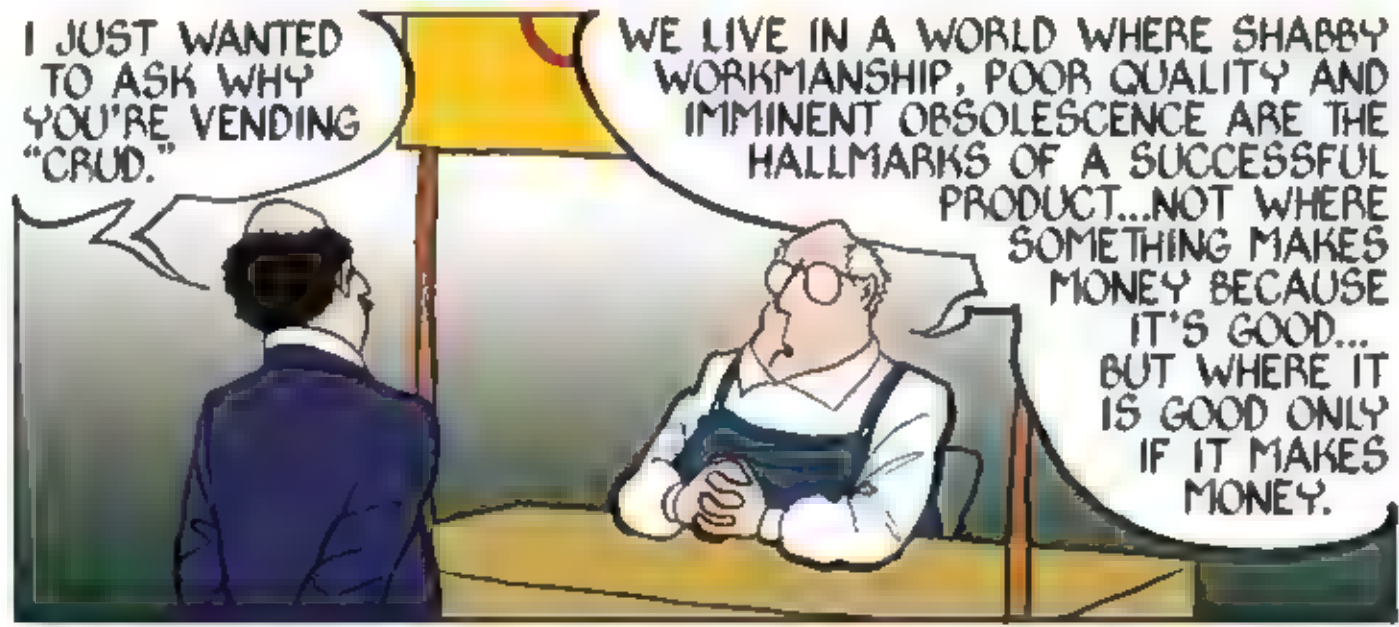
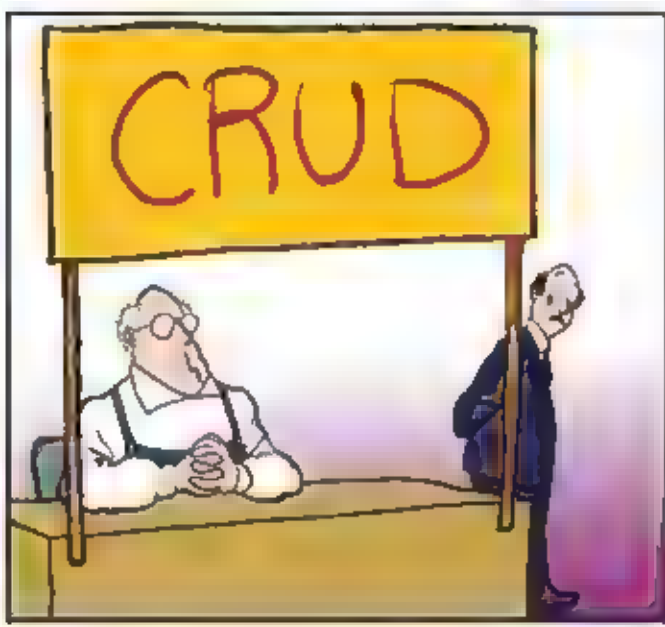






CRUD

D



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Brooke

EDDA WOULD KILL ME IF SHE  
KNEW I'M CALLING YOU...  
...SHE'S BEEN PRACTICING  
FEROCIOUSLY SINCE  
YESTERDAY EVENING.  
...AROUND THREE A.M. IT  
DEGENERATED  
INTO  
BANGED  
CLUSTERS  
OF NOTES.



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CLUSTERS?  
LET ME GUESS...  
...ABOUT THE WIDTH  
OF HER HEAD?



UM...  
...AS A  
MATTER  
OF FACT...

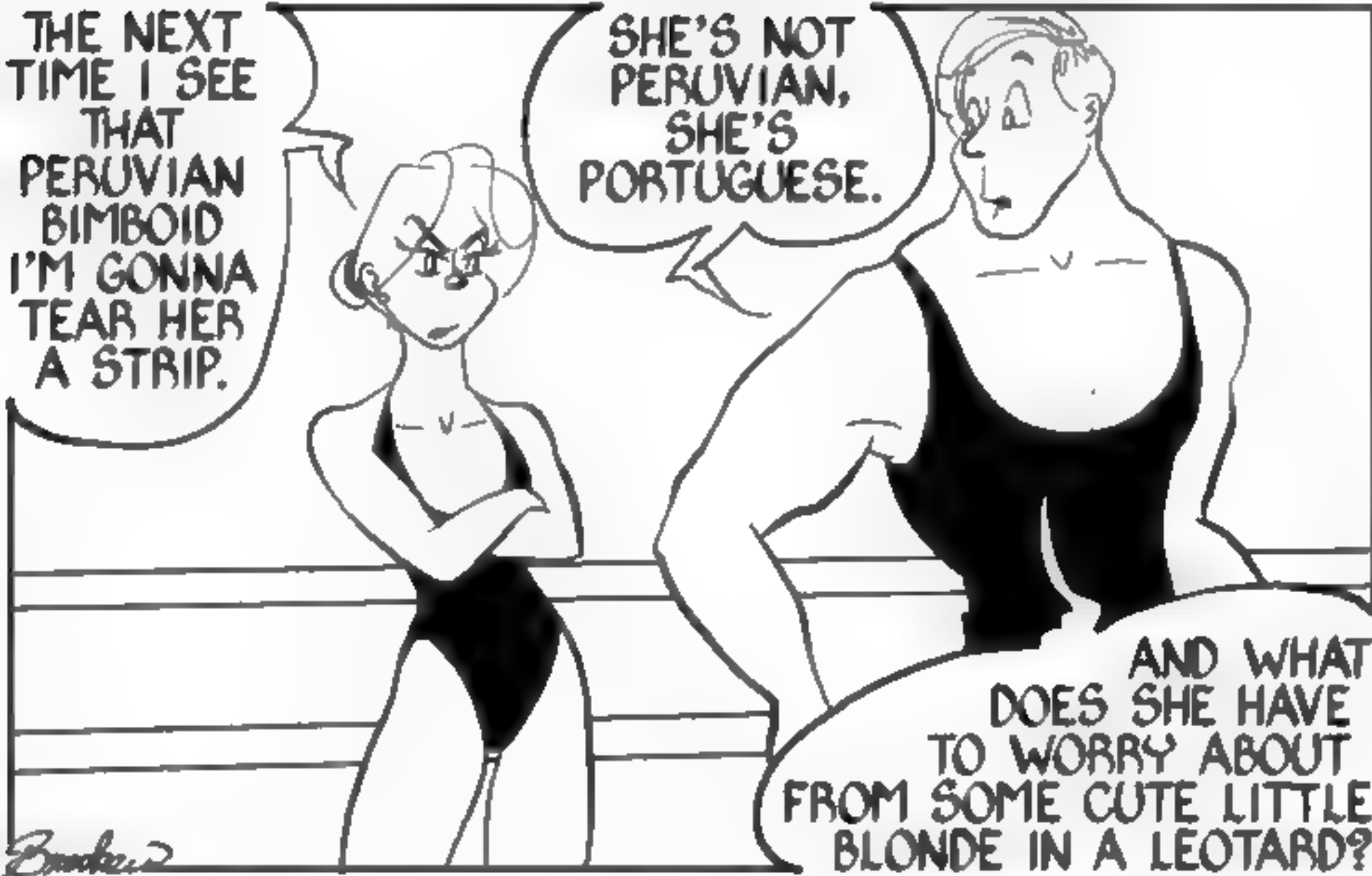
I THINK  
YOU CAN  
TUCK HER  
INTO BED.













WELL, BUSY LITTLE  
BALLERINA, I HEAR YOU'RE  
BURKHARDT'S ACCOMPANIST  
NOW.



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THAT'S RIGHT...AND BEFORE  
I'M DONE, I'LL BE PLAYING  
AS WELL AS  
YOU DO.



VERY DEFIANTLY PUT,  
AND THERE'S NOTHING I LIKE  
BETTER THAN TO BE USED  
AS THE BENCHMARK OF  
HOW WELL OTHERS ASPIRE  
TO PLAY THE PIANO.



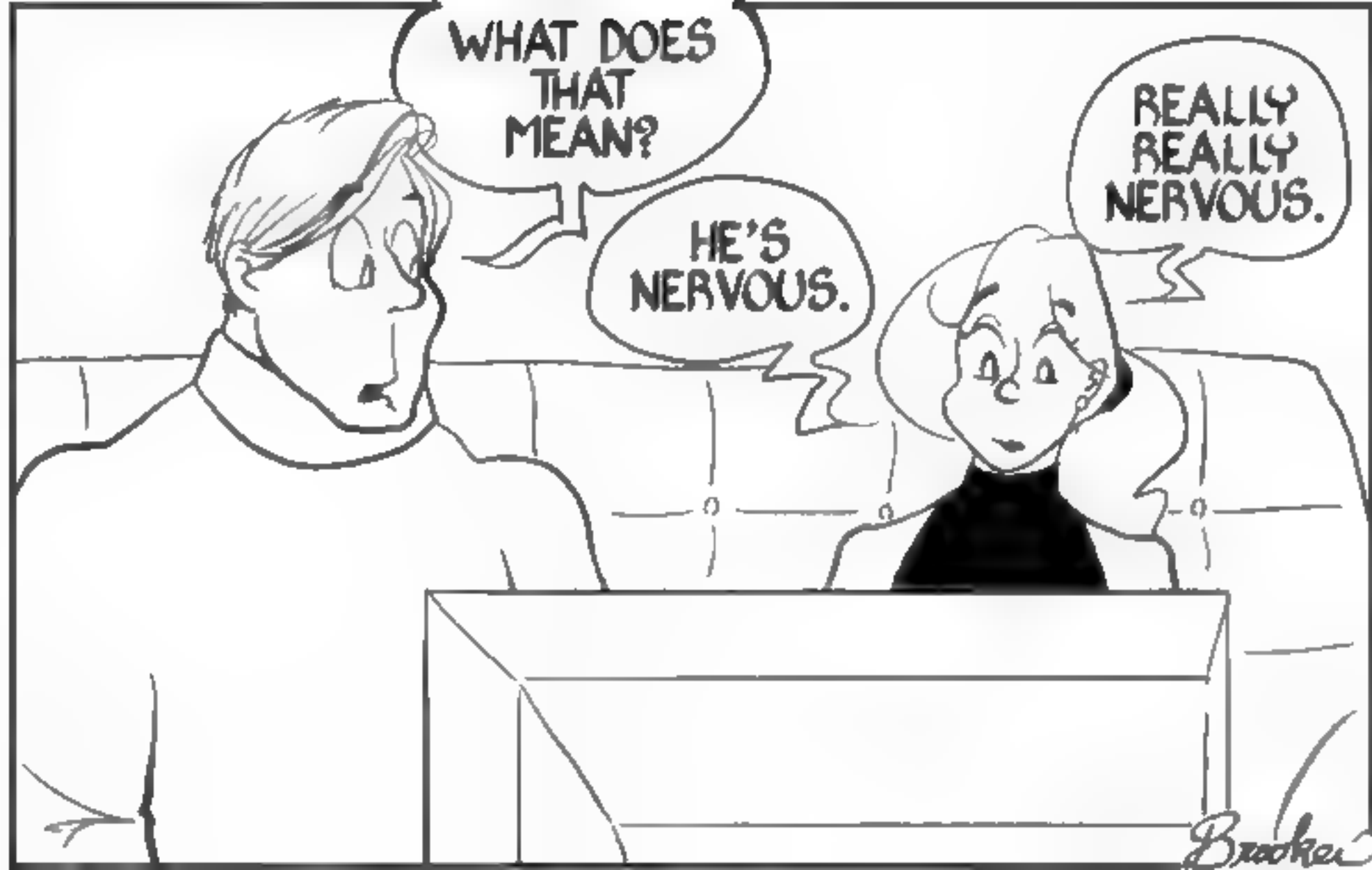
Brooke

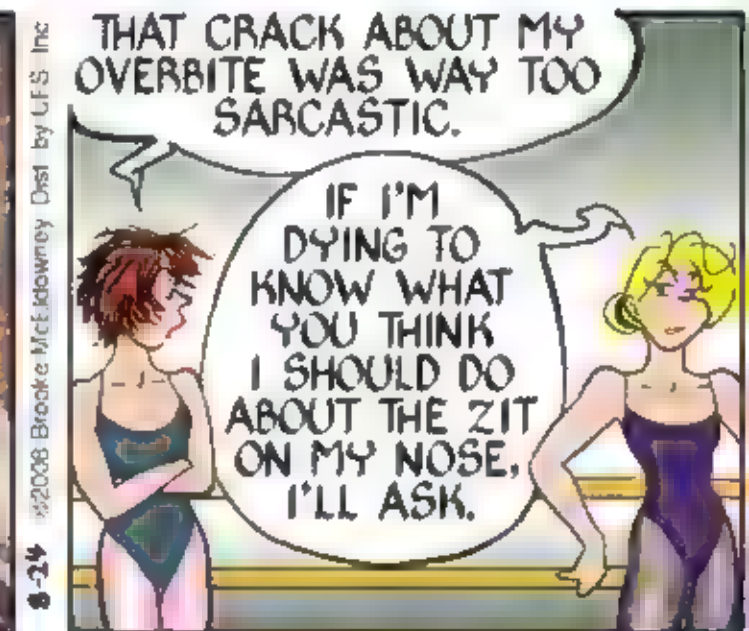
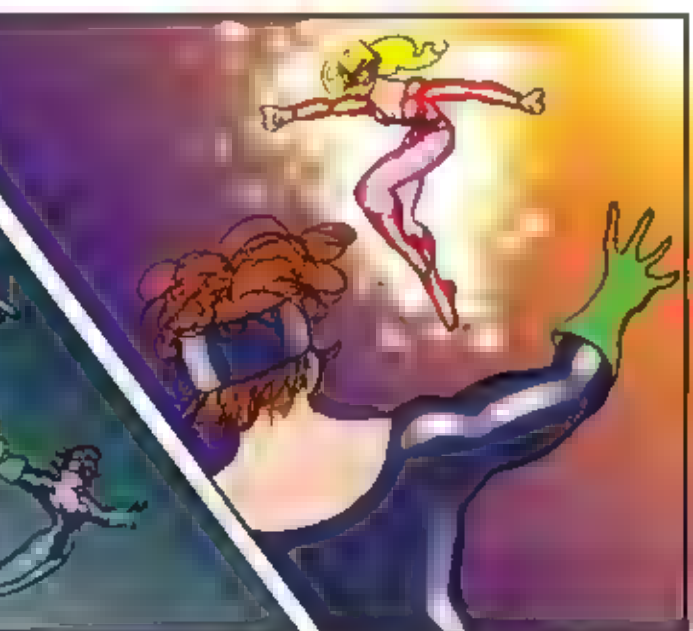
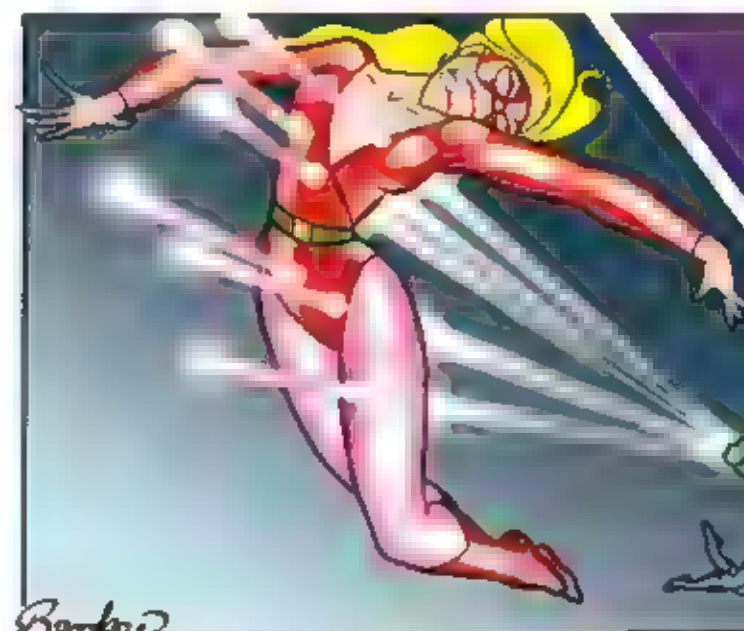
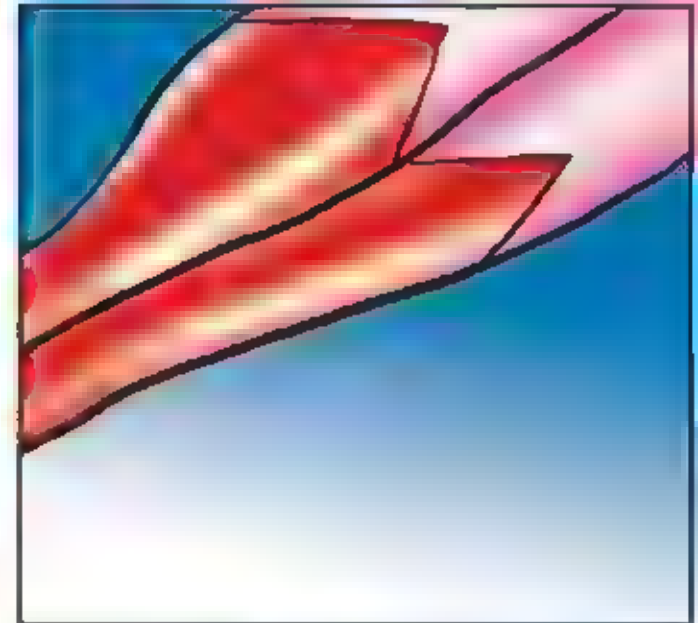


"AMOS VAN HOESEN,  
A CELLO STUDENT AT  
THE JUILLIARD SCHOOL,  
WILL GO TO BRUSSELS  
SOON TO PARTICIPATE IN THE  
PRESTIGIOUS FORRESTIER  
COMPETITION. HOW DO YOU  
FEEL, AMOS?  
ARE YOU  
READY  
TO  
COMPETE?"



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42



42



I WANT  
A NOOGIE.



AM I DREAMING?



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Brooke

DON'T  
WAKE  
UP.



AMOS TOLD ME THAT YOU  
GIVE HIM NOOGIES.  
I WANT TO KNOW  
WHAT THEY ARE  
AND HOW TO  
GIVE THEM.  
...I WILL  
PAY YOU.

PAYMENT IS  
UNNECESSARY.  
IT IS THE ANCIENT  
PHILOSOPHY OF  
THE NOOGISTS  
THAT THEY  
MUST BE  
FREELY  
GIVEN.

Brooke

ALLOW ME  
TO DEMONSTRATE...

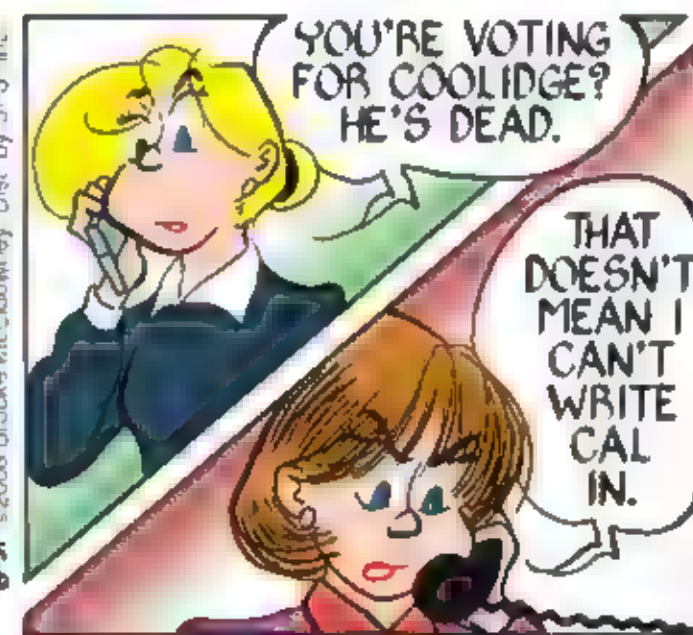
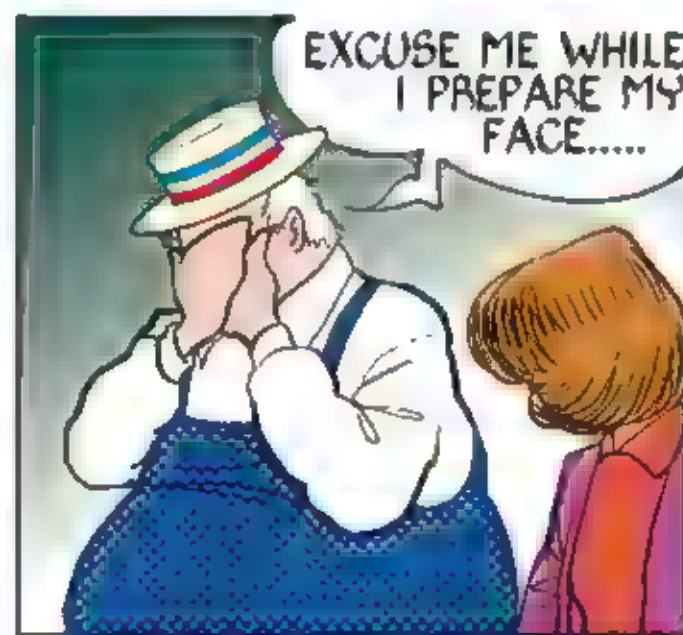
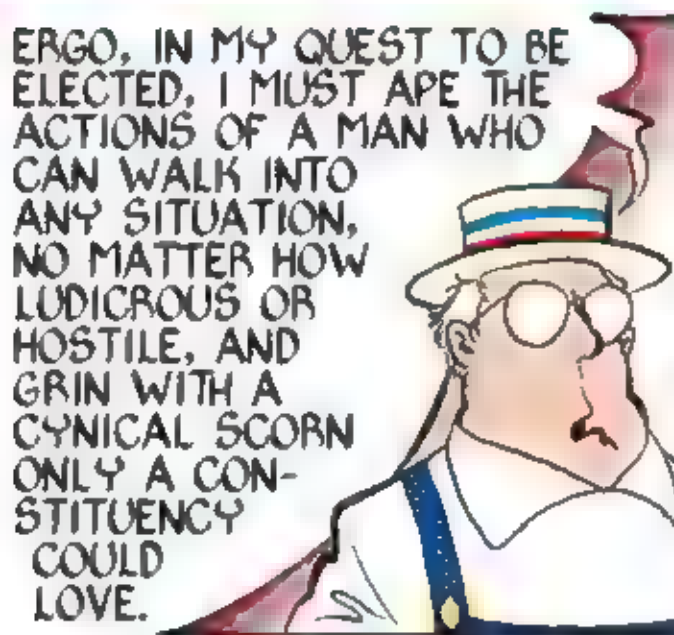
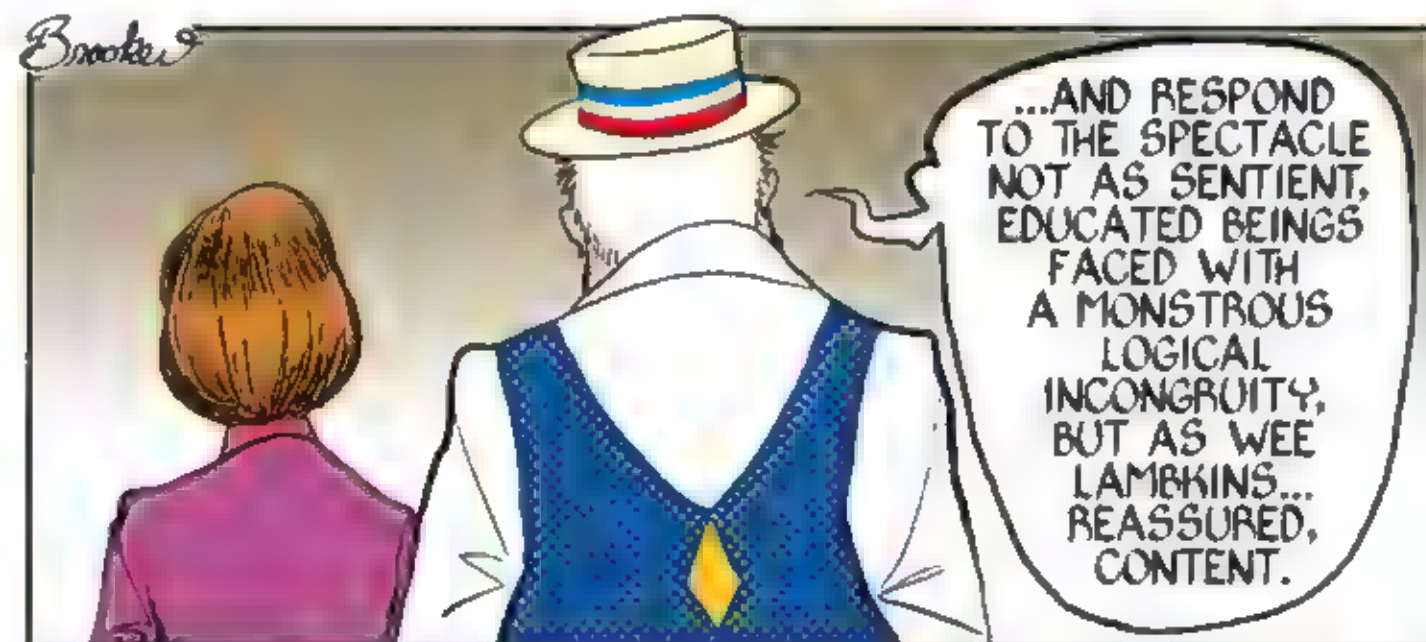
um...

IS THE EXPRESSION OF  
UNBRIDLED  
EVIL  
OBLIGA-  
TORY?

OH, YES,  
GRASSHOPPER.  
...OH, YES  
INDEED.









YOU GAVE  
ISABEL A NOOGIE?!  
YOU CAN'T JUST  
HAUL OFF AND  
ASSAULT PEOPLE!

I DIDN'T HAUL OFF.  
...SHE ASKED FOR IT.  
SHE CAME TO  
THE DOOR AND  
REQUESTED  
A NOOGIE.  
SO I  
OBLIGED  
HER WITH  
ONE.

ON THE OTHER HAND,  
HOW BAD COULD IT  
HAVE BEEN WITH THOSE  
BONY LITTLE HANDS  
OF YOURS?

I'M  
TELLIN'  
YOUR  
MOM!

MAYBE  
I SHOULD  
OPEN A  
NOOGIE  
DOJO.

I'M SORRY YOU HAD TO GET  
YOUR INAUGURAL NOOGIE  
FROM EDDA. SHE'S KIND OF  
A NOOGIE  
MASTER.

IT WAS LIKE  
LIGHTNING.

HERS  
ARE  
SILENT,  
DEADLY.

BUT THEY MAKE YOU  
FRIENDS?

ONCE  
YOU CAN  
SEE  
THROUGH  
THE  
TEARS.

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9-1

Brooke

I'M JUST  
BEGINNING  
TO SEE  
THROUGH  
MINE.









Booke 2



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WE'RE GOING TO HAVE  
A MARVELOUS TIME AT THE  
COMPETITION IN BRUSSELS...  
...JUST THE TWO OF US.



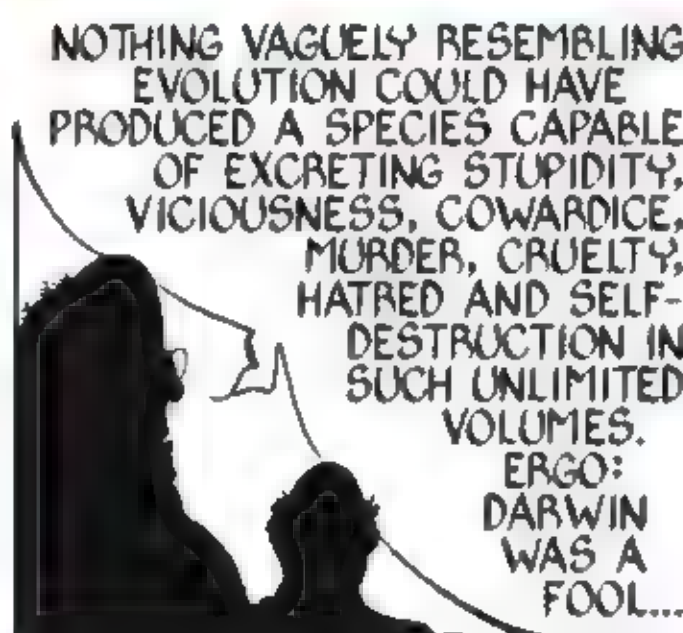
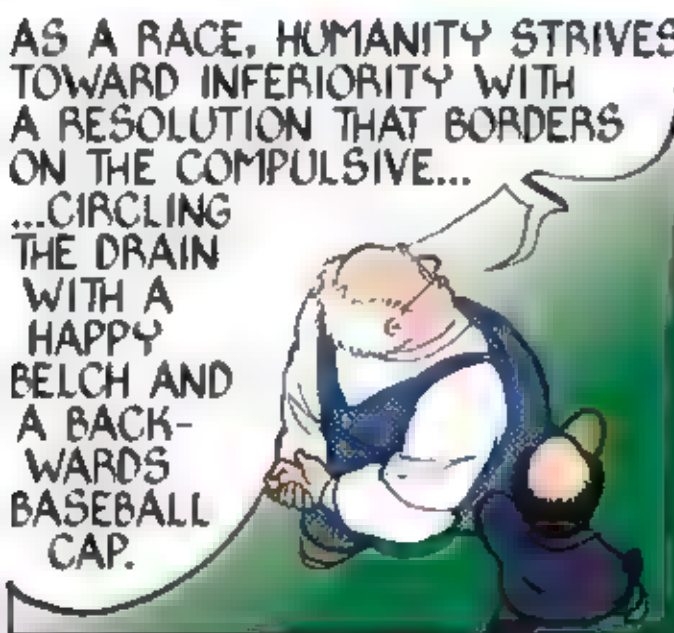
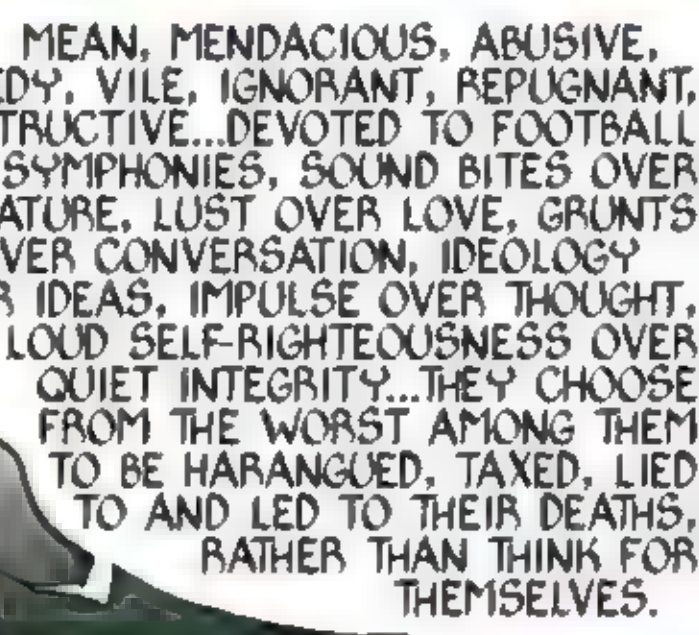
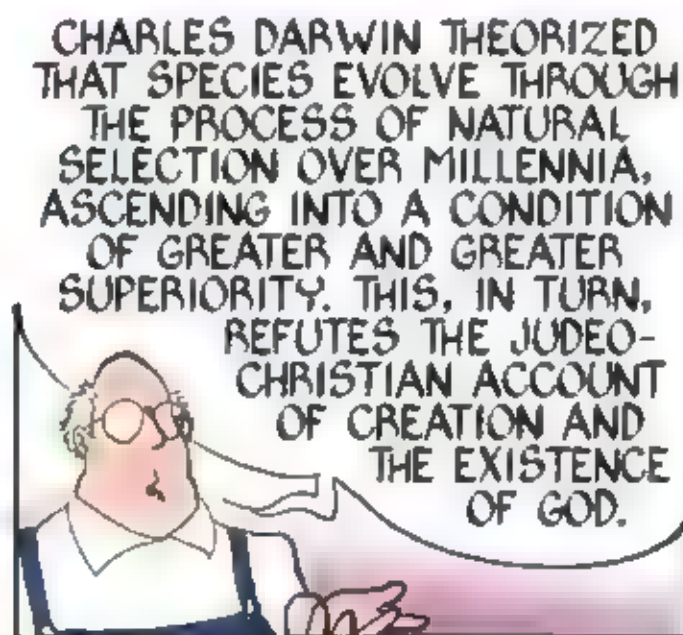
AND IT'S A GOOD THING  
I'M ALMOST OVER THAT  
SECONDARY THROAT  
INFECTION. THAT COULD  
HAVE COMPLICATED  
THINGS.





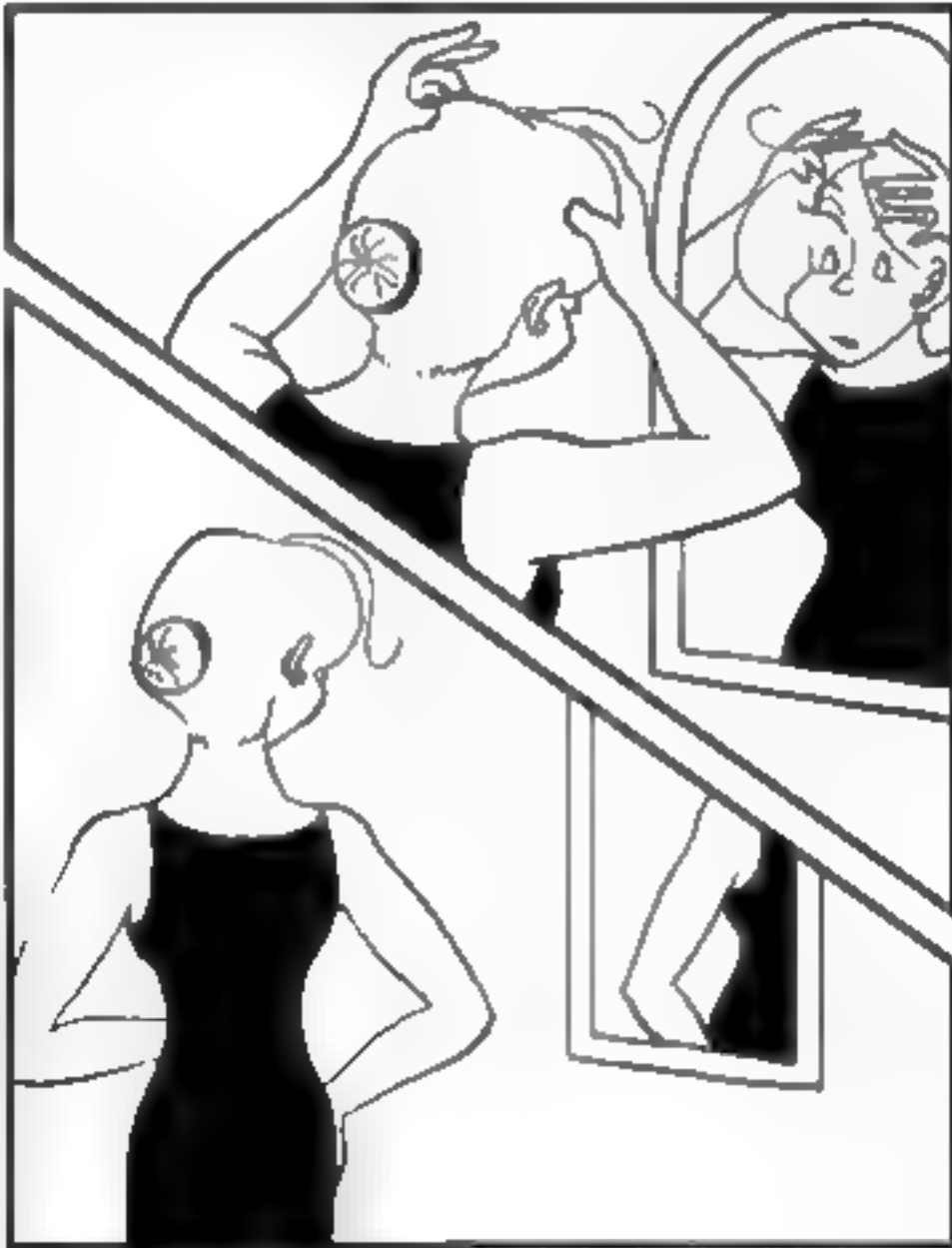


# PROOF DU JOUR: DARWIN WAS A FOOL: THERE IS A GOD



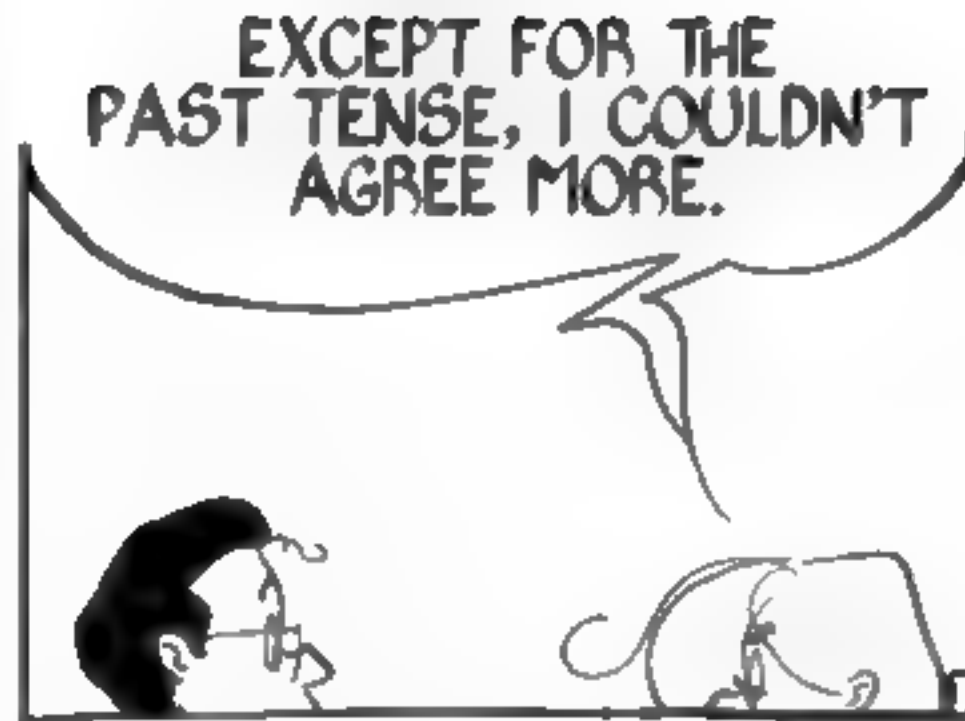


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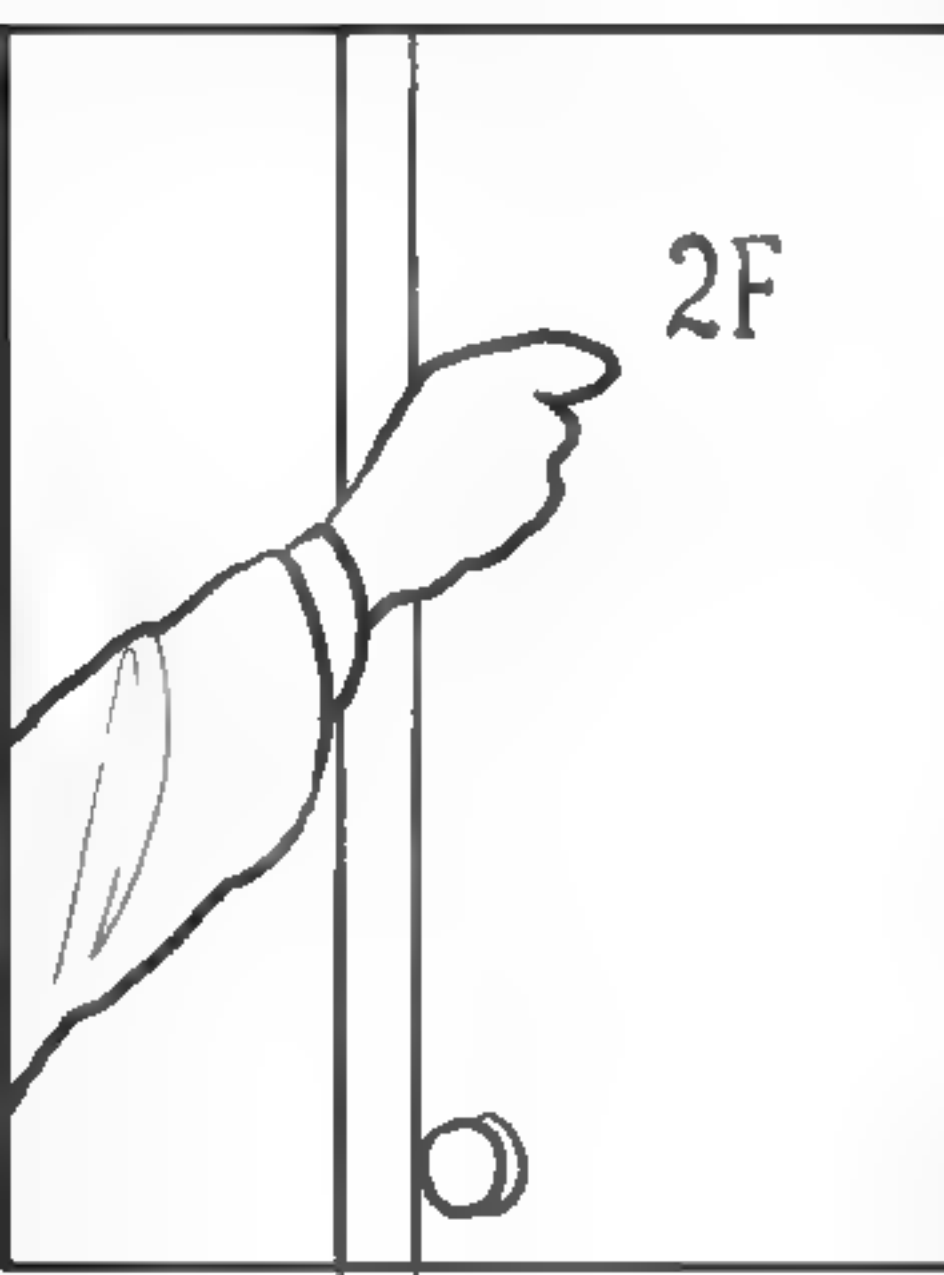












2F



OH, LOVELY.  
A GENTLEMAN  
CALLER.

HERE  
TO  
GLOAT?



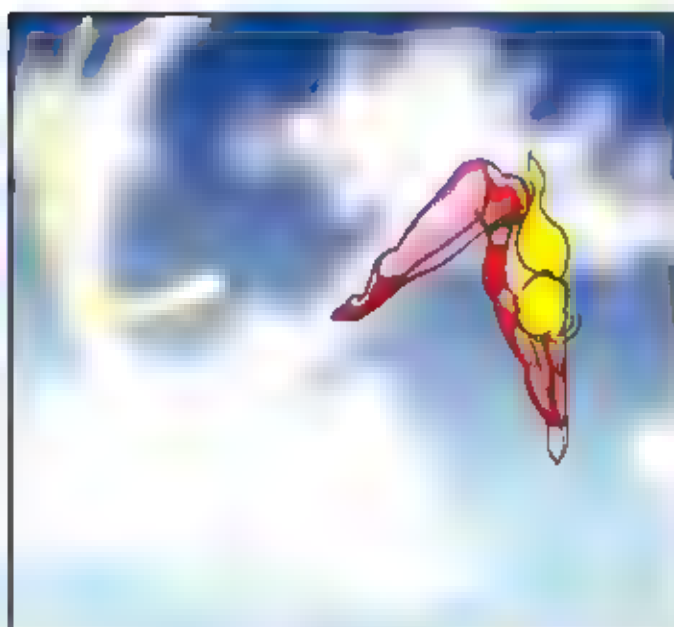
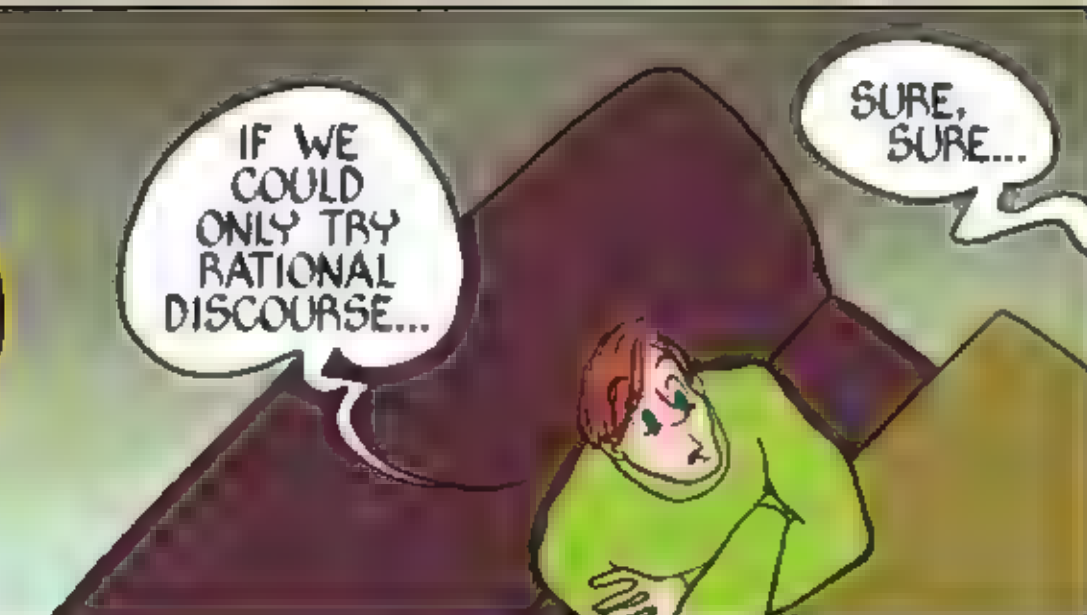
*Broken*



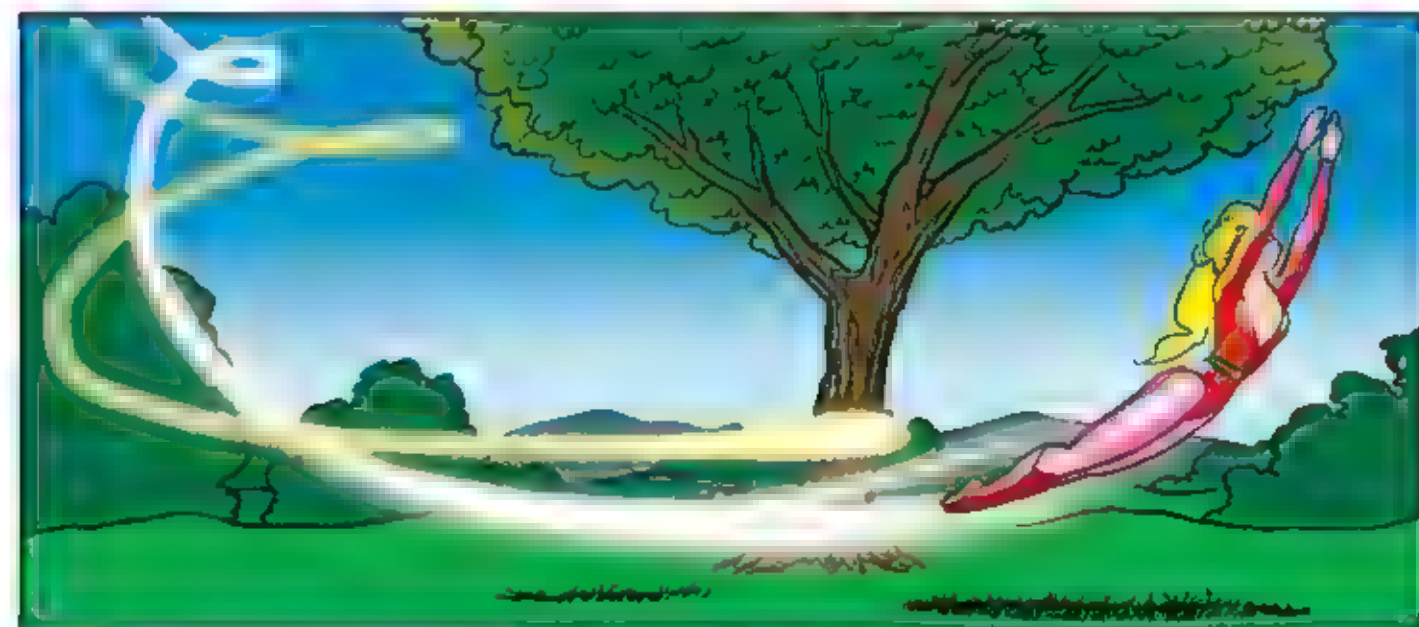
WELL, YES...  
...BUT NOW  
YOU'RE  
RUINING  
IT.

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# 9 CHICKWEED LANE



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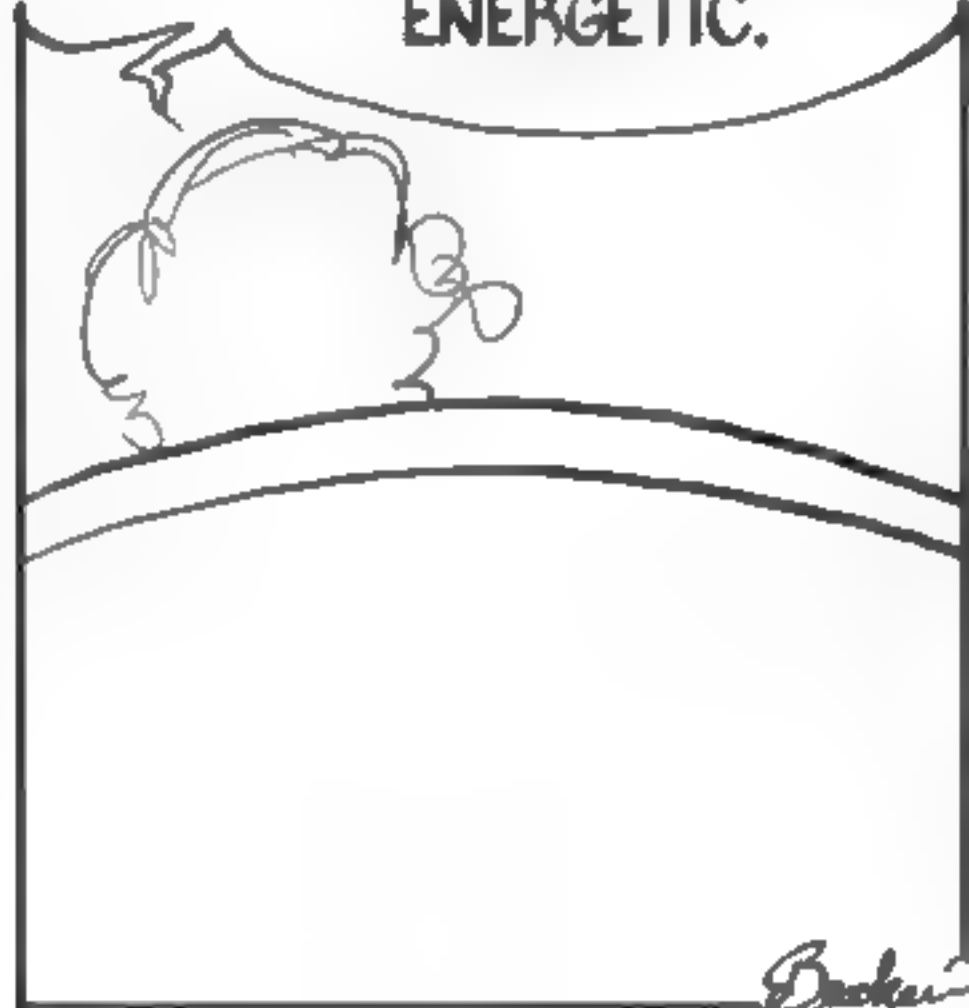
I JUST HAD A DREAM IN WHICH I COMPLETELY LOST MY MIND. IT WAS INCREDIBLY REALISTIC YET TOTALLY ABSURD.



I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND, ...I BORROWED ONE OF YOUR GOWNS. I DIDN'T WANT TO WRINKLE MY TROUSERS, AND YOU MUST HAVE A MILLION OF THESE THINGS.



I HAVE TO SAY, FOR A WOMAN WITH THE FLU, YOU ARE REMARKABLY ENERGETIC.



FOR A MAN WITHOUT THE FLU, YOU ARE REMARKABLY STUPID.



I FEEL AS IF I'VE SPENT  
A VERY SPECIAL TIME  
WITH ROYALTY.

WHAT MAKES  
YOU SAY THAT?



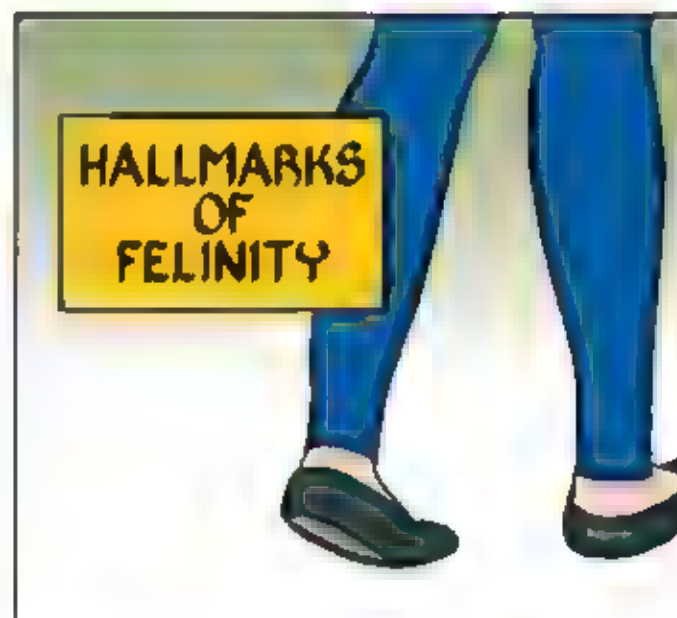
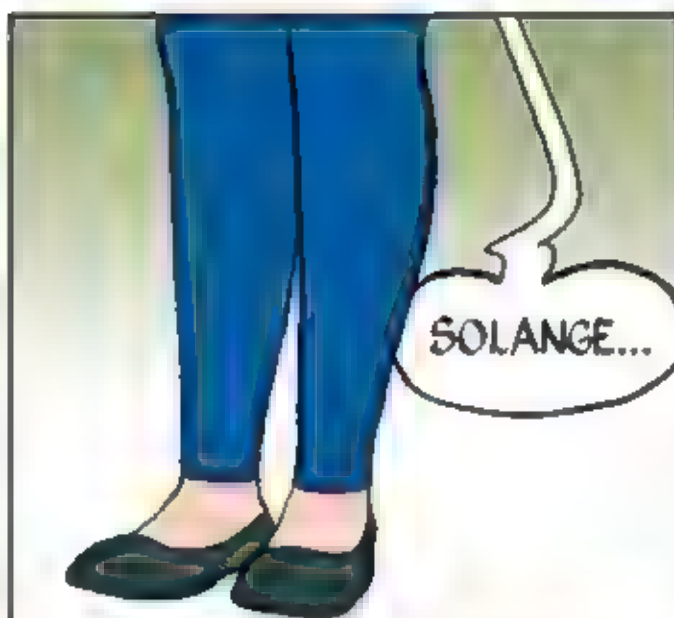
AS A SUBSPECIES,  
VIOLISTS HAVE A  
REPUTATION FOR  
UNRIVALED STUPIDITY.

YOU  
HAVE TO  
BE THEIR  
KING.

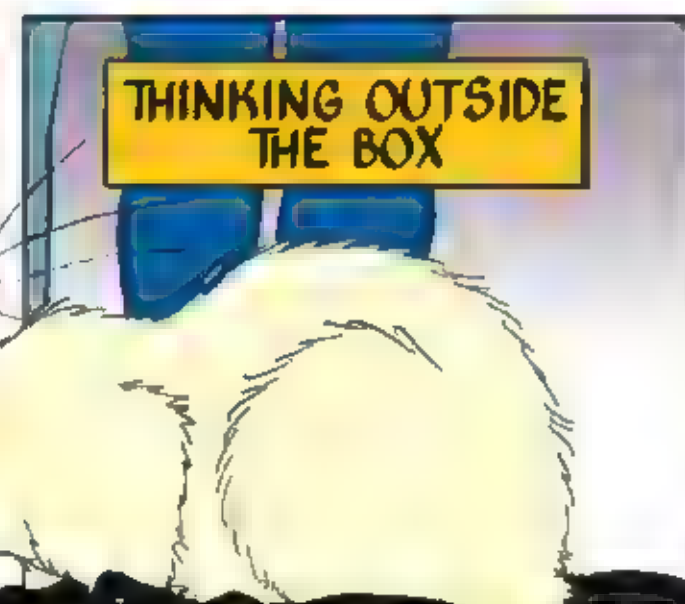
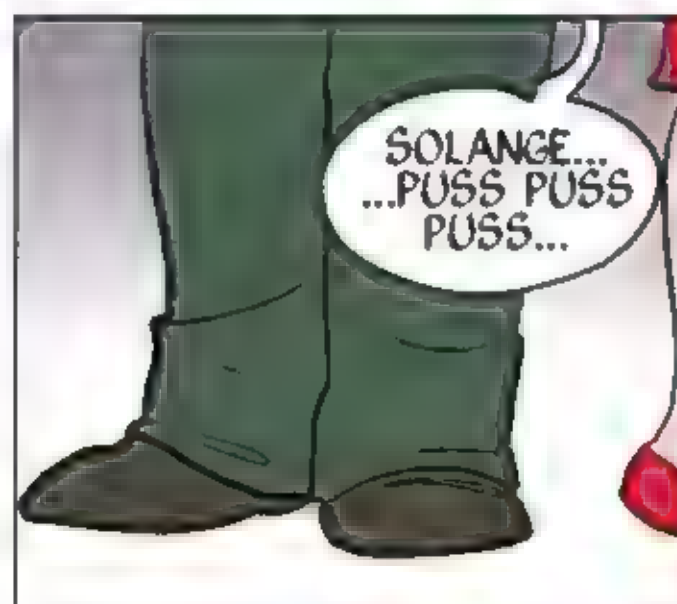








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HEY, EDDA...DO YOU REMEMBER  
WHEN WE WERE AT ST. GODZILLA'S  
AND YOU USED TO DRAW ON  
YOUR INFINITE  
SPECTRUM OF WAYS  
TO RATTLE SISTER  
CALIGULA'S CAGE  
UNTIL SHE WOULD  
TURN THE COLOR  
OF AN EGGPLANT  
AND MASTICATE  
THE AIR WITH  
SPEECHLESS  
RAGE?



I SURE  
DO.

WELL,  
DON'T TRY IT  
WITH ME!



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THAT WAS  
LOUD.

AND  
A LITTLE  
AROUSING.



Backus

AMOS MAY JUST GO TO BRUSSELS ALONE IF YOU CONTINUE TO PULL HIS CHAIN.

YOU SIMPLY DON'T UNDERSTAND HIM AS I DO. WE COMMUNICATE THROUGH SUBTLE SIGNALS AND DELICATE NUANCES.



AND YOU KNOW JUST THE NUANCED SIGNAL TO DEPLOY IN THIS CASE?

MOST CERTAINLY.



Brooke

OKAY, ALRIGHT, FINE. NOW QUIT BUGGING ME.



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OH, SO SUBTLE.

WE HAVE OUR OWN LANGUAGE.



THIS IS OUR FLIGHT  
ITINERARY TO BRUSSELS.

YOU HAD IT CONVERTED  
TO MY NAME ALREADY?  
BUT I ONLY JUST  
AGREED  
TO GO.



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I CALCULATED HOW LONG  
YOU'D TOY WITH ME AND  
ACT LIKE A JERK BEFORE  
YOU FINALLY SAID YES,  
AND THERE  
WASN'T  
ENOUGH  
TIME, SO  
I HAD THE  
RESERVATION  
CHANGED.



*Brooke*

DON'T  
YOU THINK  
THAT WAS  
A TRIFLE  
ARROGANT?

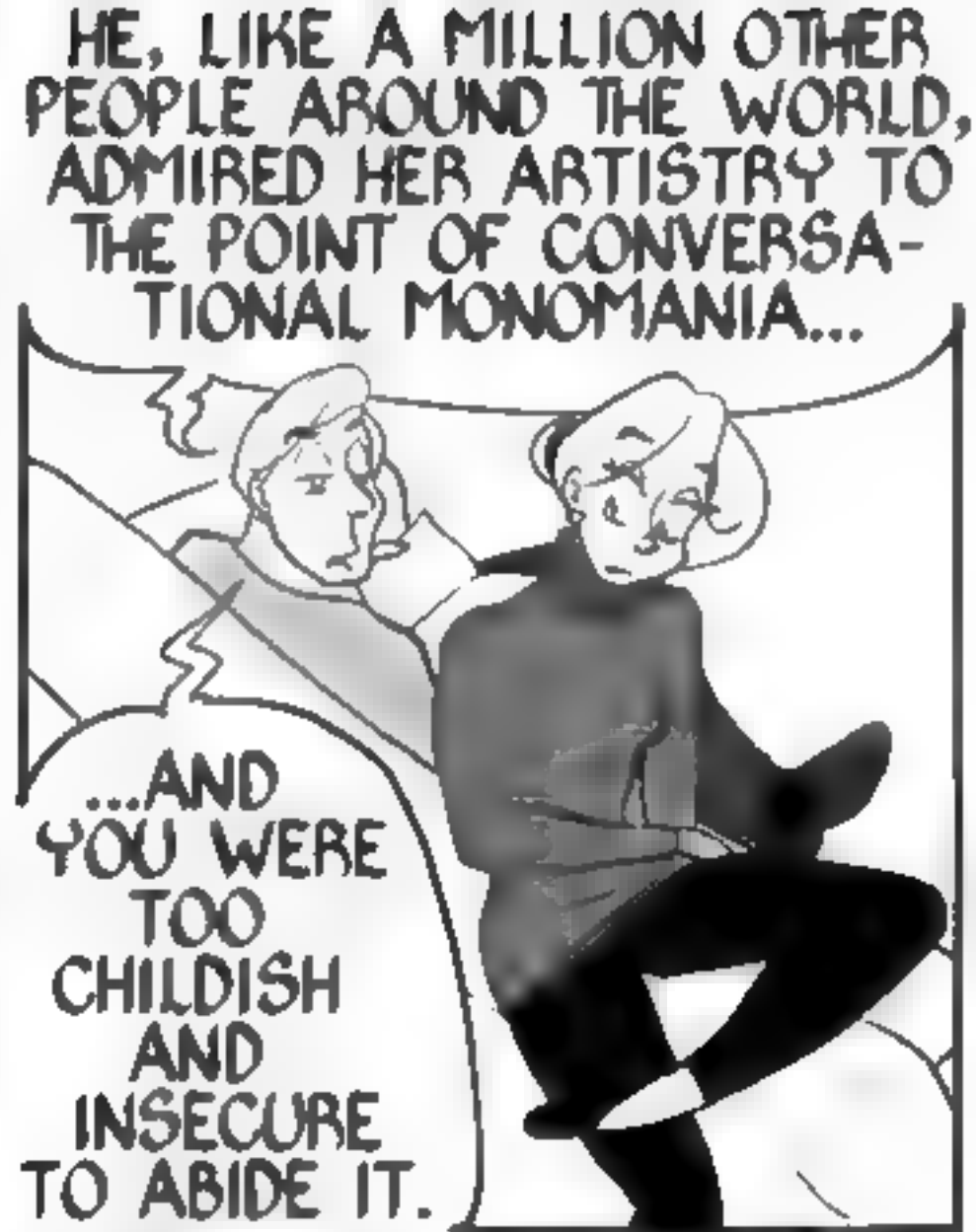


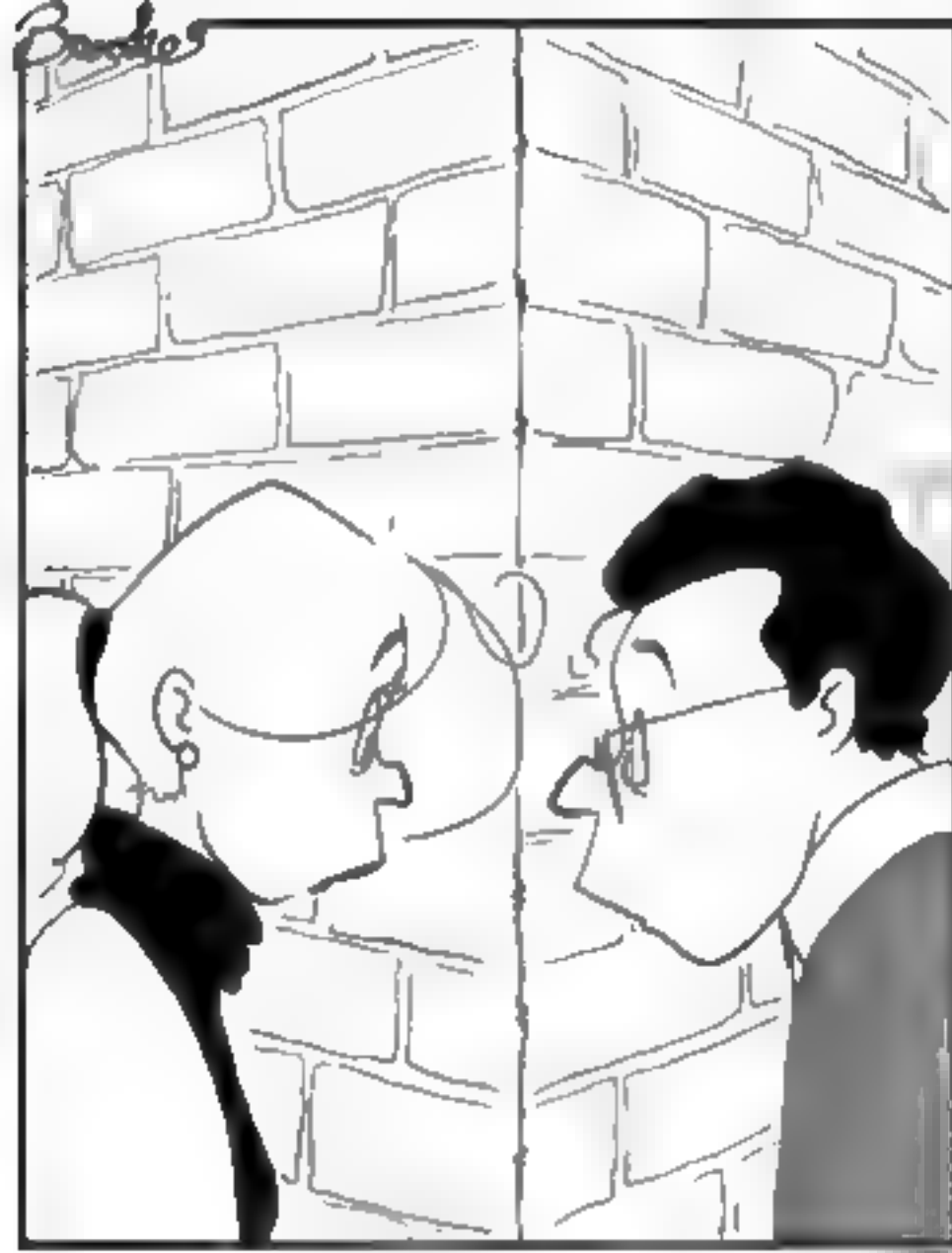
I LEARNED  
FROM A  
MASTER.

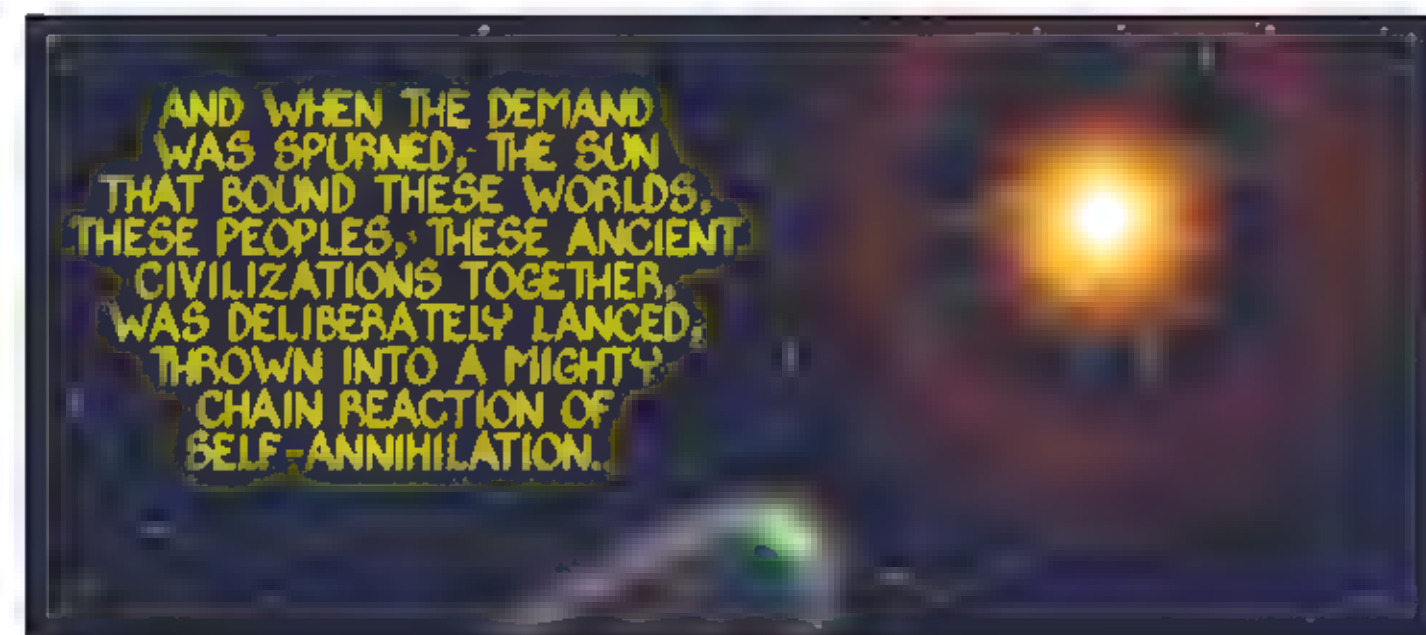
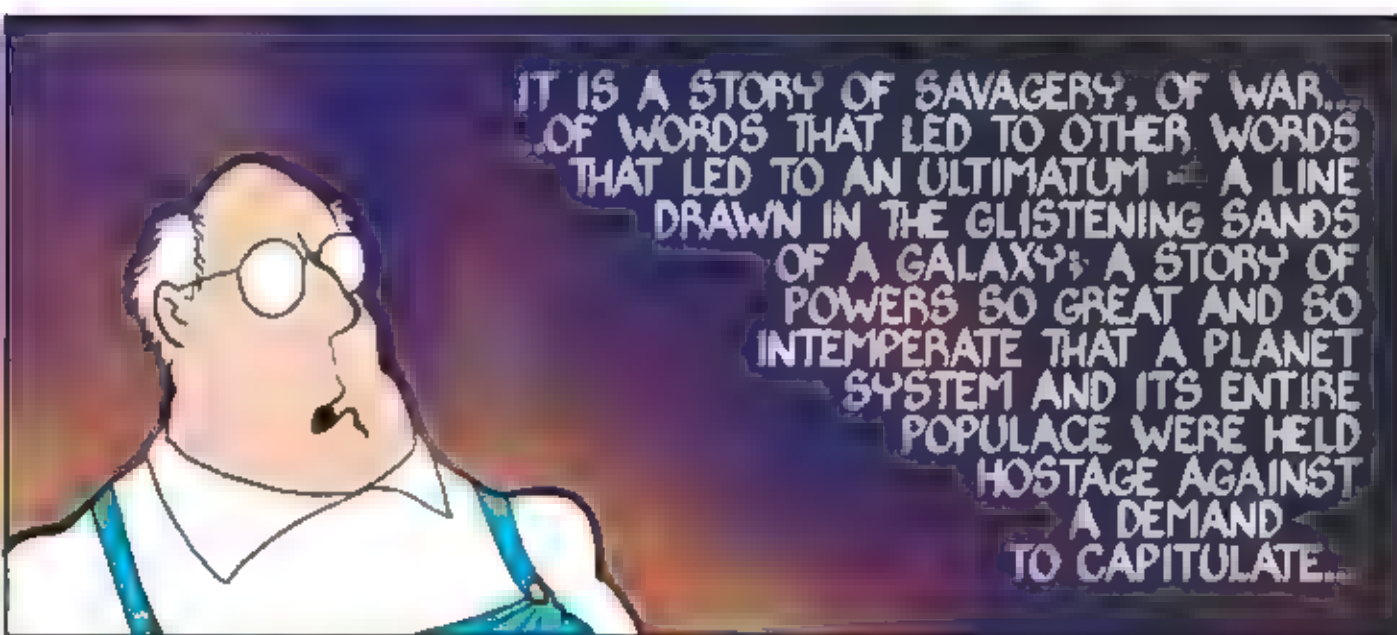




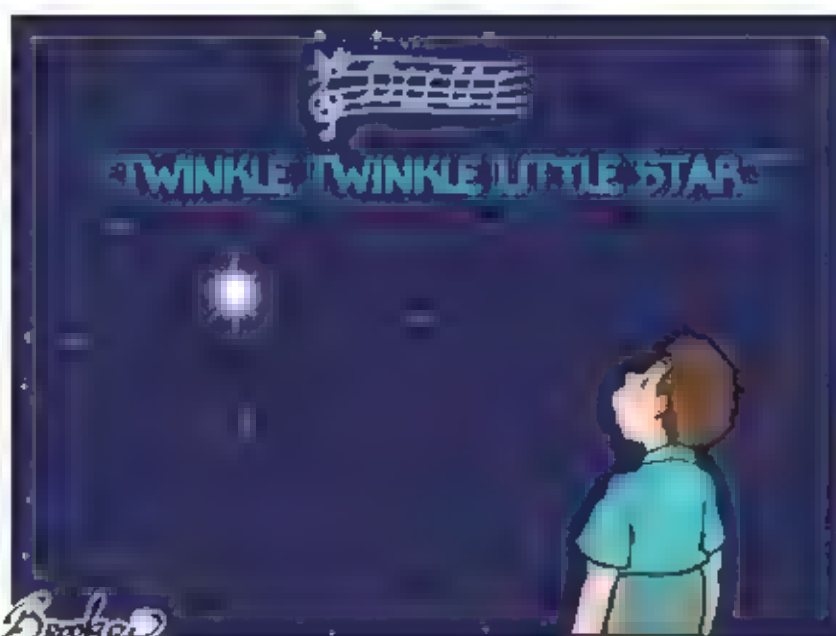








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JUST BECAUSE ISABEL WAS  
GOING TO BRUSSELS WITH  
YOU DOESN'T MEAN YOU  
NEED ME. THERE ARE PLENTY  
OF PIANISTS AROUND.

I WANT  
YOU!



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I'M SORRY I GAVE YOU  
THE FLU. YOU SOUND MUCH  
BETTER, THOUGH. ALMOST  
WELL  
ENOUGH  
TO GO  
TO  
BRUSSELS.



10-3 ©2008 Brooke McEldowney Dell by UFS, Inc

THAT BOAT HAS SAILED.  
YOU'LL HAVE TO FEND  
WITHOUT ME. I'M STILL  
DEALING WITH  
A STUBBORN  
FEVER.



Brooke

IT'S FUNNY  
HOW IT KEEPS  
COMING BACK.

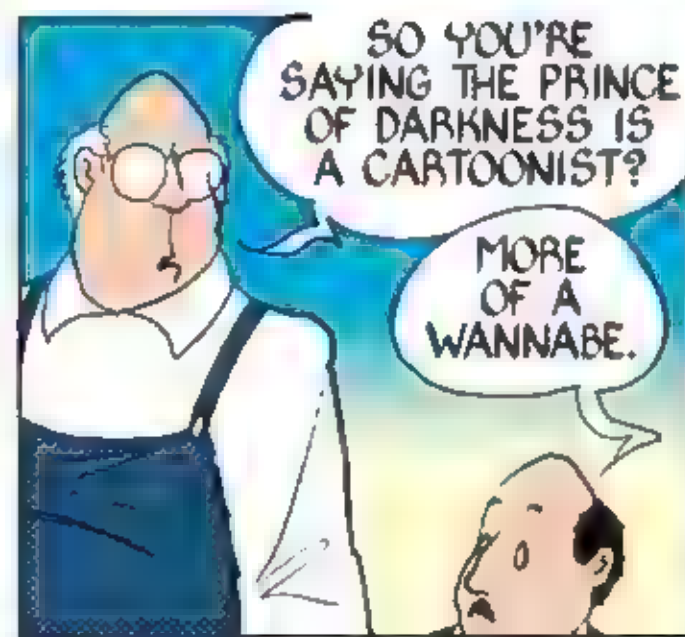
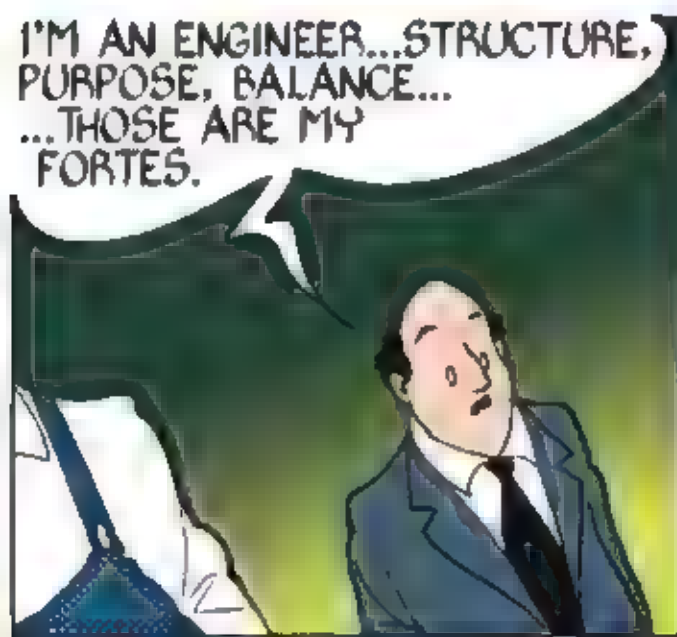
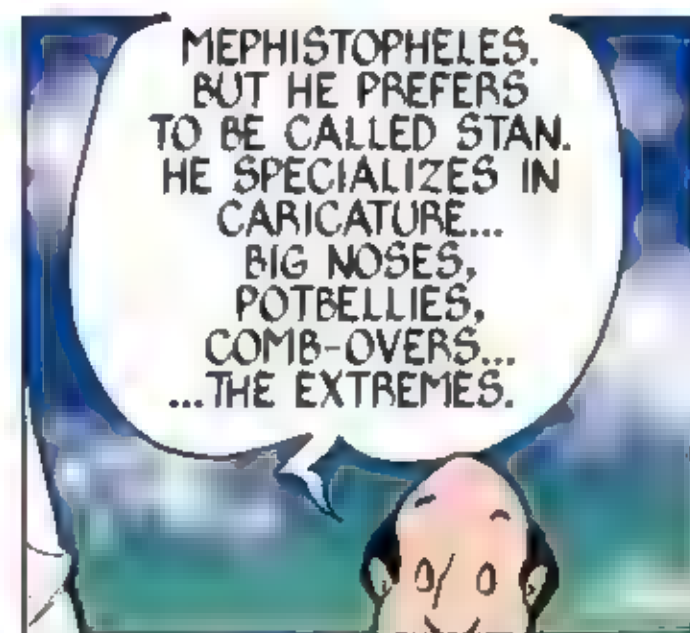
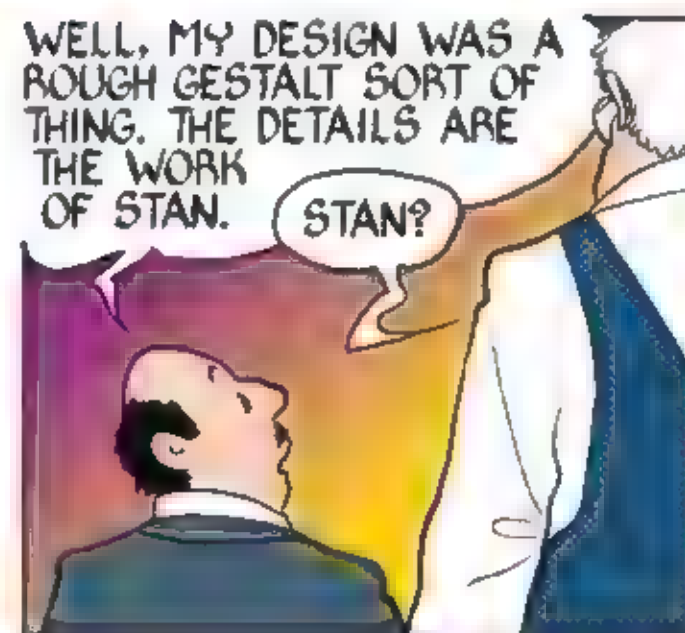
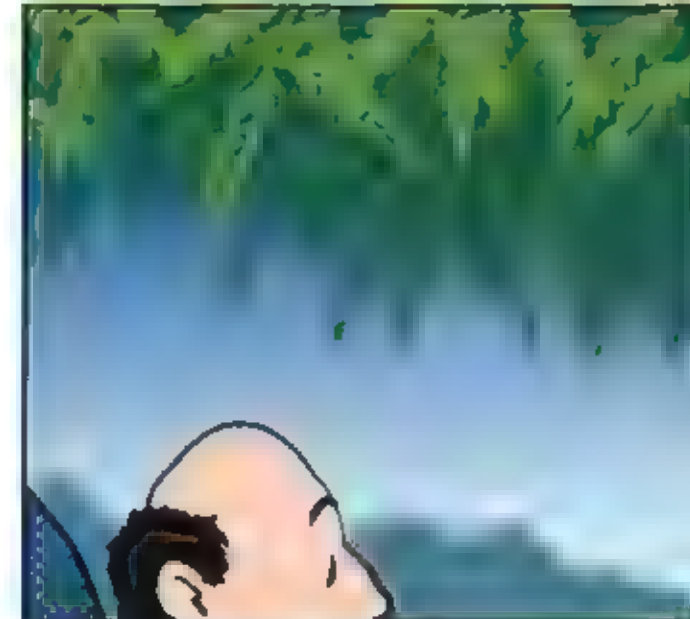






# 9 CHICKWEED LANE

®





SO, AMOS AND EDDA ARE  
ON THEIR WAY?



RIGHT NOW,  
THEY'RE HIGH  
OVER THE  
ATLANTIC.

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MAYBE, IN SUCH CLOSE  
PROXIMITY, SOMETHING  
ROMANTIC WILL  
HAPPEN.



I'M  
CONVINCED  
OF IT.

EXCUSE ME...HAVE YOU  
ANYTHING FOR HICCUPS,  
NOSEBLEED, NAUSEA...



...VERTIGO,  
HOMESICKNESS  
AND GAS?

Brooke



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Broken

I HAD THE WHOLE THING TIMED...I IMAGINED THE CHAIN OF EVENTS DOWN TO THE MINUTE. NOW I'M OUT OF THE PICTURE, THEIR FLIGHT HAS LANDED, THEY'VE PASSED CUSTOMS AND TRAVELED TO THE HOTEL...AND JUST ABOUT THIS INSTANT THE DESK CLERK IS SAYING SOMETHING LIKE...



HERE IS THE KEY TO YOUR ROOM.

ROOM?

ROOM?!



I'M HERE FOR  
THE CONCOURS  
INTERNATIONAL  
FORRESTIER.  
WE HAVE  
RESERVA-  
TIONS.

INDEED  
YOU DO,  
SIR, BUT  
NOT FOR  
TWO ROOMS.  
JUST ONE.

BUT  
ISABEL  
SAID...

YOU LET  
ISABEL  
BOOK  
THE  
ROOMS!?

DON'T BREATHE  
A MARTYRED SIGH  
AND SAY "OH,  
AMOS!" OR "GOOD  
LORD, AMOS!" OR  
"HOLY MOLY,  
AMOS!"



MIGHT I  
SUGGEST,  
MADEMOISELLE,  
"GLORIOSKY,  
AMOS"?

THANK  
YOU...

GLORIOSKY,  
AMOS!

HEY!

MY APOLOGIES,  
SIR, BUT SHE  
IS PRETTIER.





THAT COW ISABEL THOUGHT  
SHE'D DEFILE YOU IN SOME  
FOREIGN HOTEL...AND NOW  
I'M STUCK HERE INSTEAD.  
I'M GOING TO PHONE HER  
AND SAY THE NASTIEST,  
MOST STINGING THING  
SHE'LL EVER  
HEAR.

WHAT  
EXACTLY  
IS  
THAT?

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GOOD LORD!  
HOW CRUEL CAN  
YOU BE!?

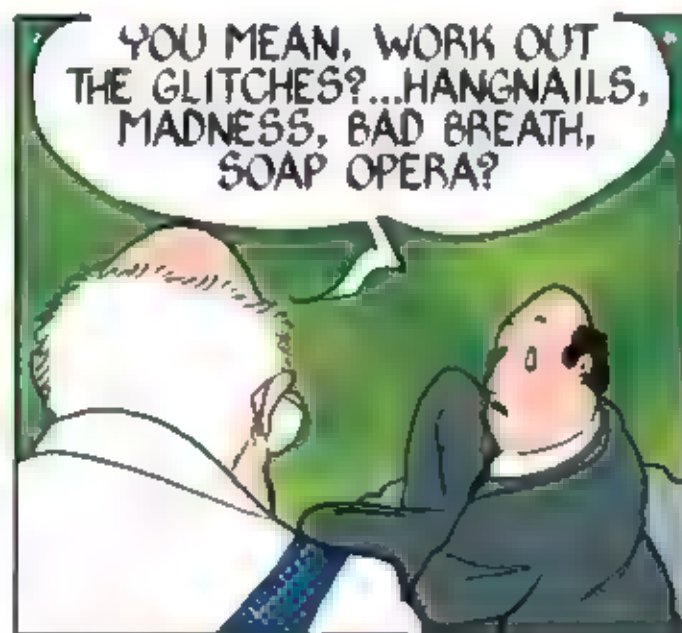
*Barber*

WHAT DID  
EDDA SAY?

"THANK  
YOU."

# 9 CHICKWEED LANE

®



OKAY, YOU SLEEP IN THE  
BED AND I'LL TAKE THE  
CHAIR. YOU'RE GOING TO  
NEED YOUR REST FOR  
THE COMPETITION. \*Hic\*



EVERY TIME I SAY  
THE WORD  
"COMPETITION"  
YOU HICCUP. I DO  
NOT!



COMPETITION,  
COMPETITION,  
COMPETITION! \*Hic\*  
\*Hic\*  
\*Hic\*

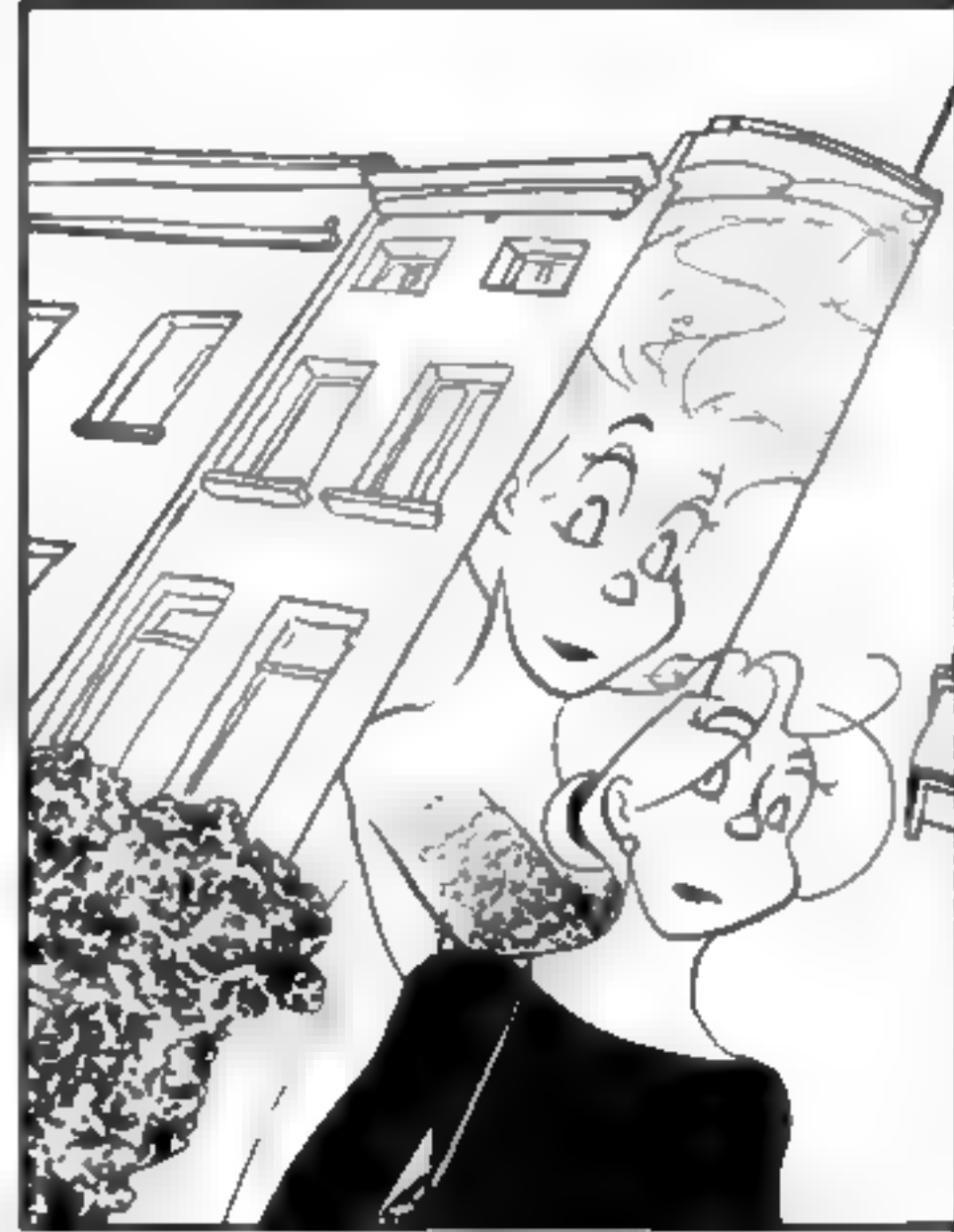


Brooke  
COMPETITION.









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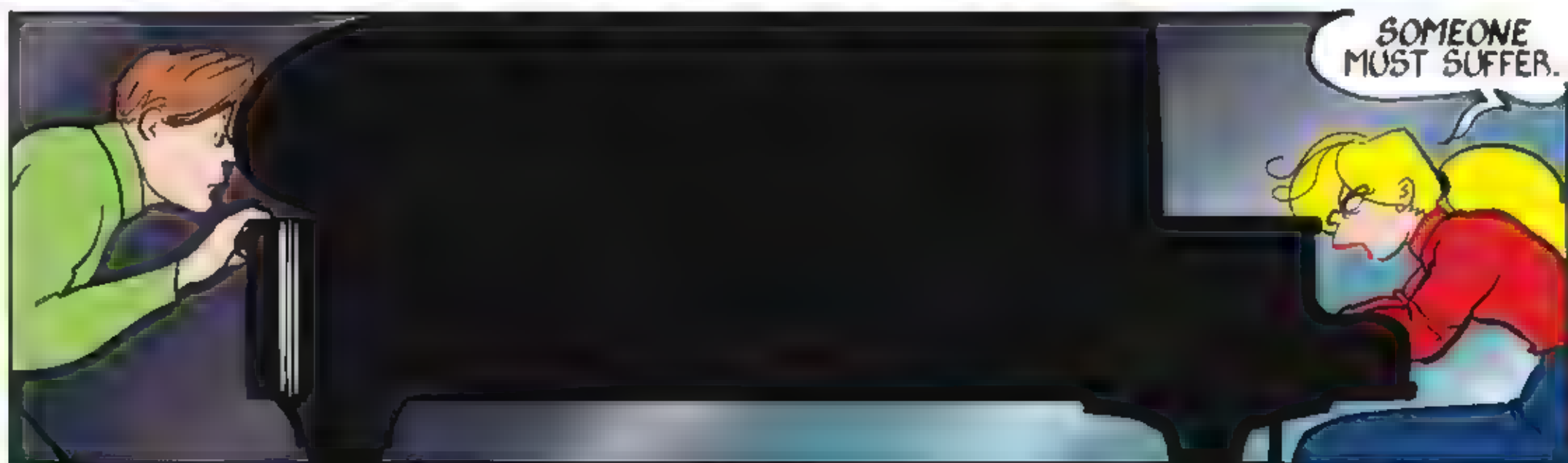
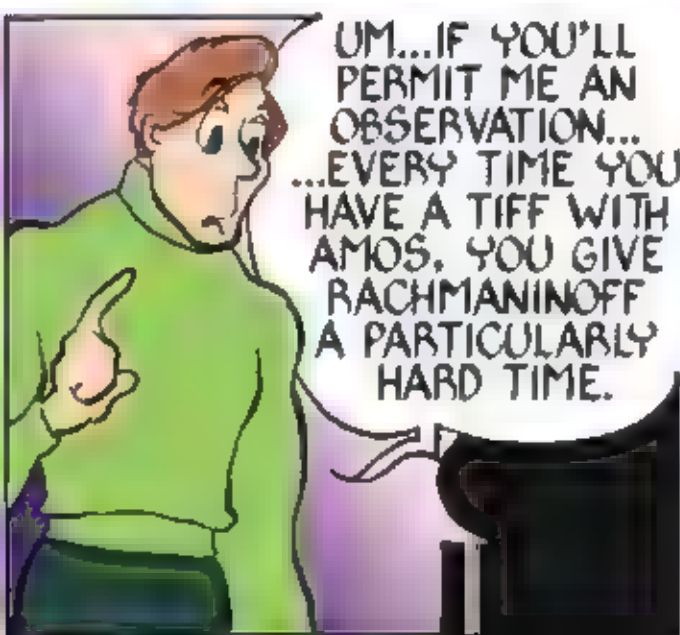
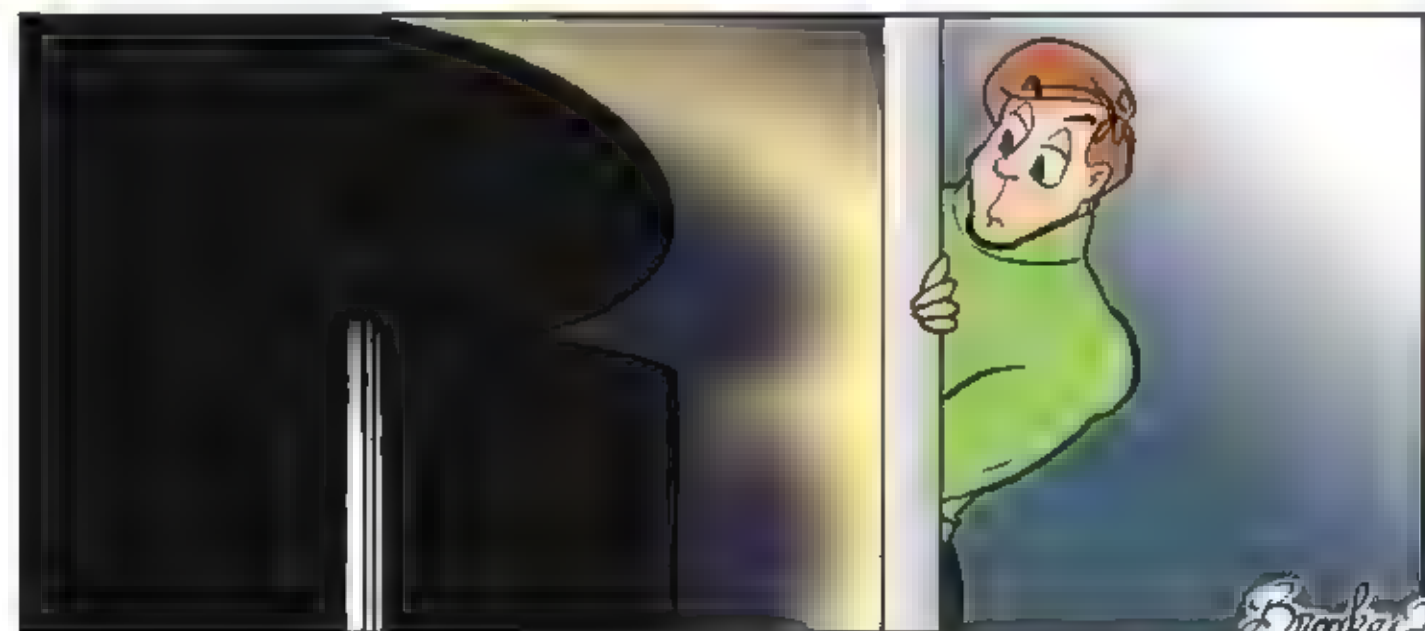






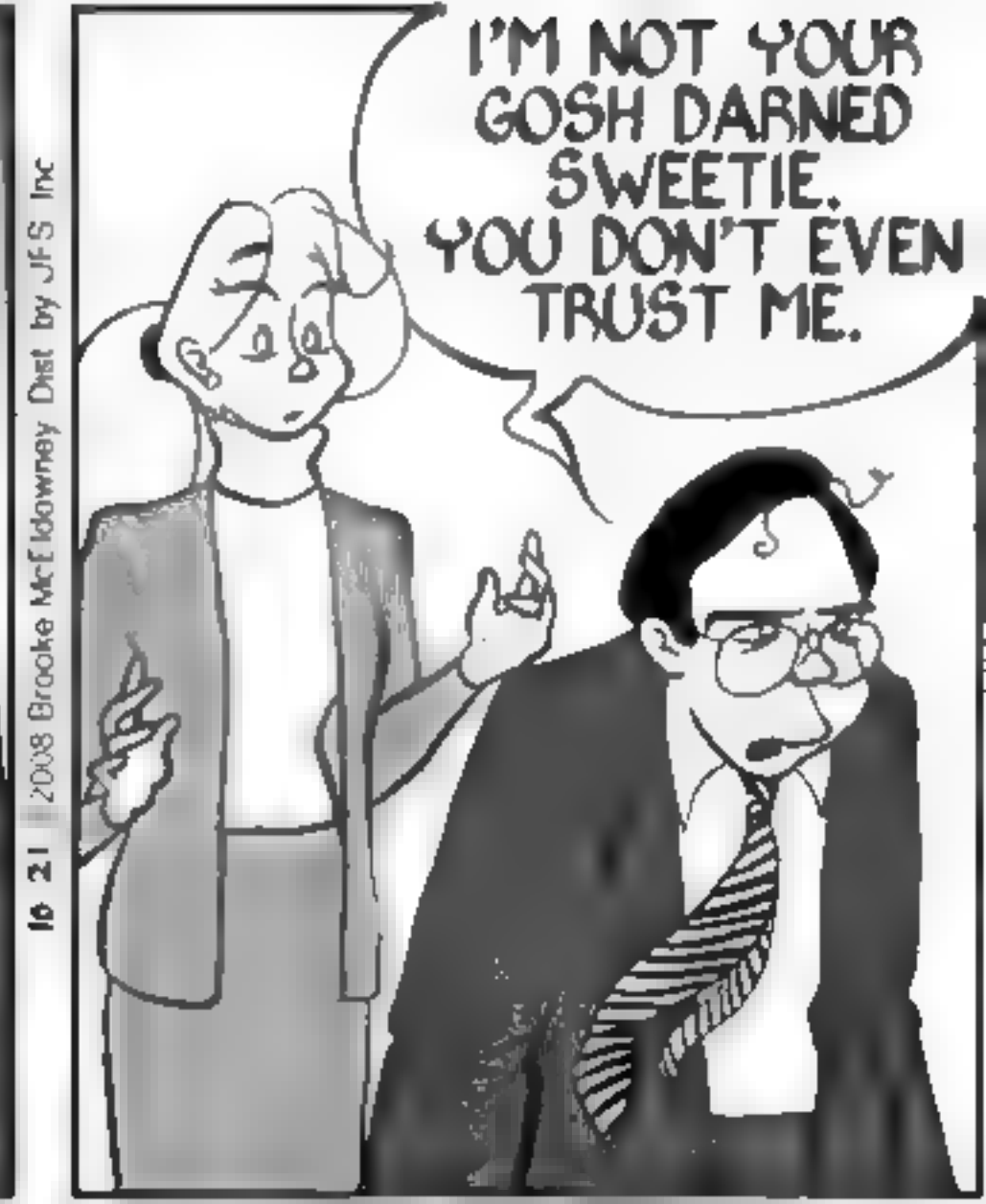












AMOS SAID "GOSH DARNED"  
TODAY. I'VE NEVER HEARD  
HIM RESORT TO LANGUAGE  
LIKE THAT BEFORE.  
WHAT  
HAVE I  
DONE  
TO  
HIM?



10 22 www Dist by LFS m

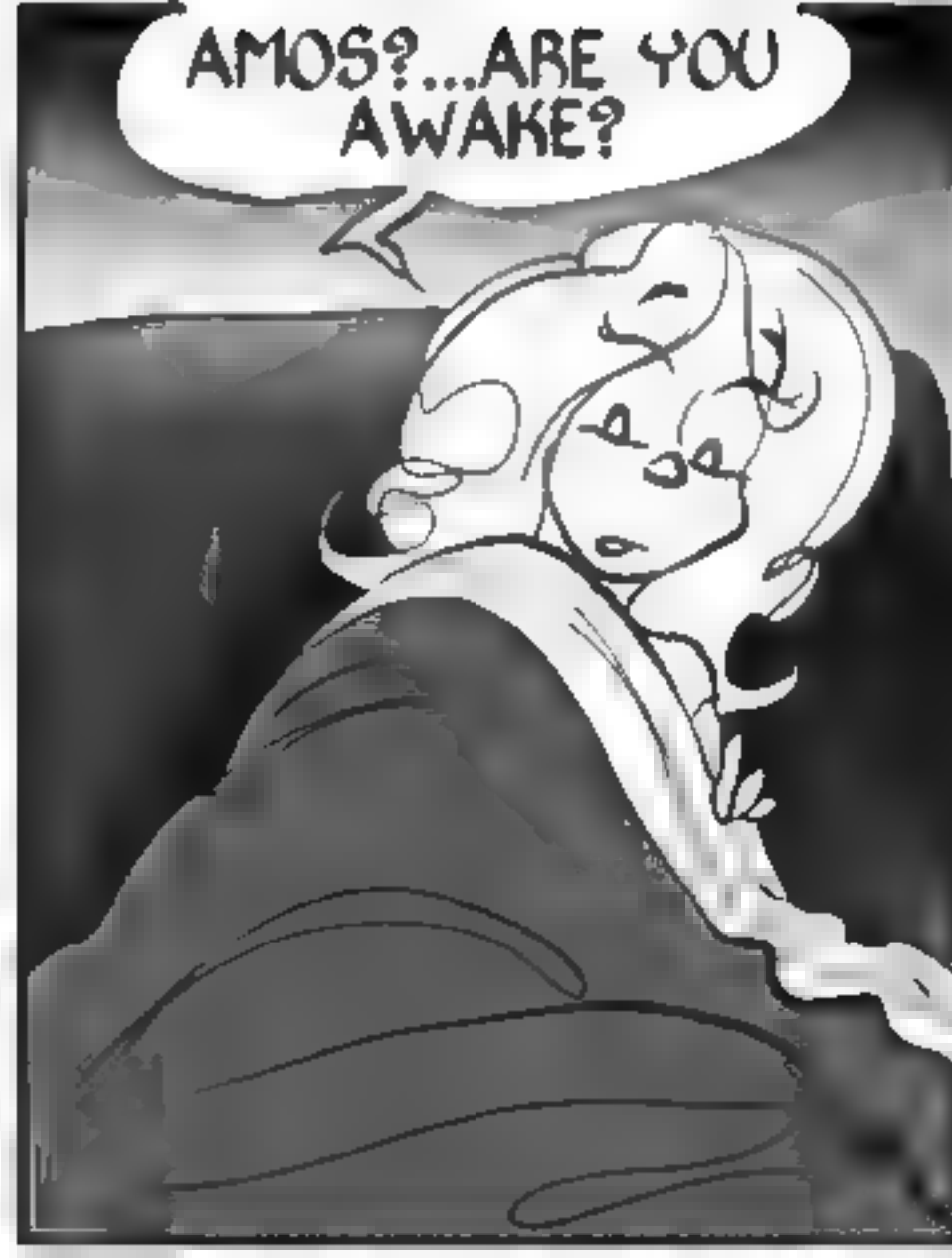
IN NO TIME HE'LL STOP  
TUCKING IN HIS SHIRT,  
THEN NEGLECT  
TO SAY  
"BLESS  
YOU"  
WHEN  
YOU  
SNEEZE.



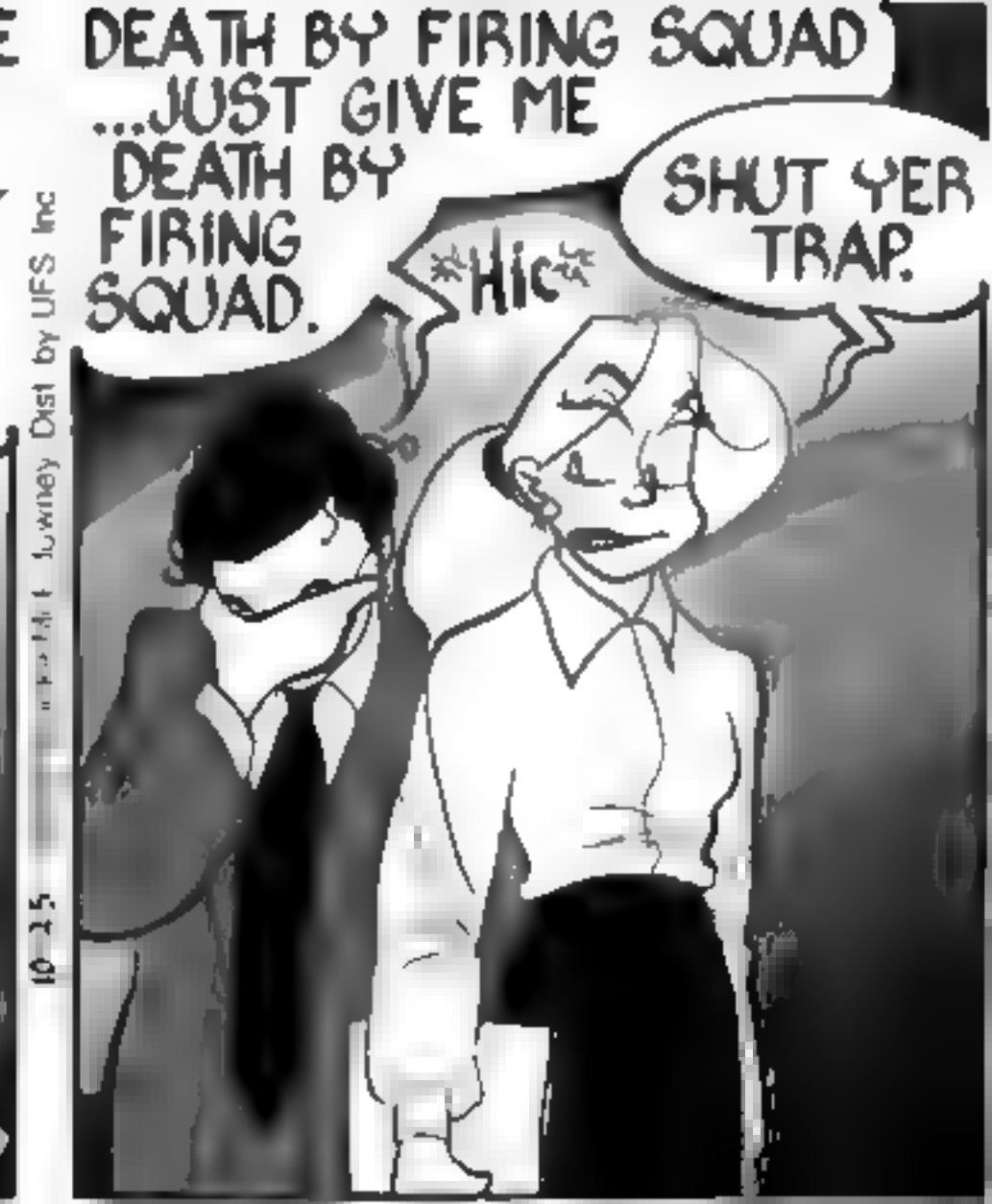
*Brooke*

STOP IT!  
YOU'RE  
CREEPING  
ME OUT!

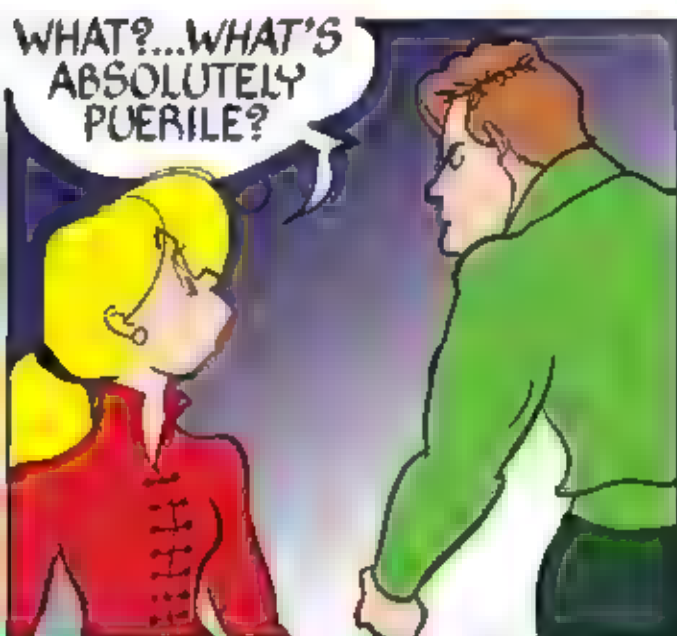
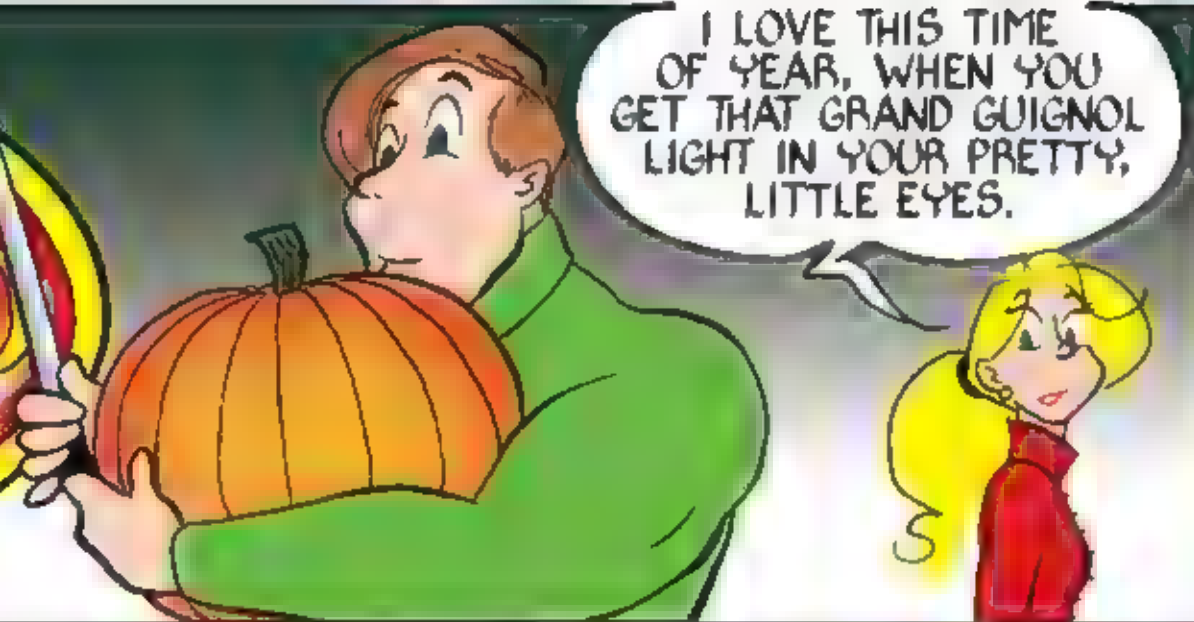












AMOS WON THE  
SECOND ROUND.  
HE'S A  
FINALIST!



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10-17

CAN YOU PUT HIM  
ON THE PHONE?  
I WANT TO  
WISH HIM  
LUCK.



WELL...I CAN'T  
RIGHT NOW. HE'S OUT  
CELEBRATING.

I WANT  
TO DIE.

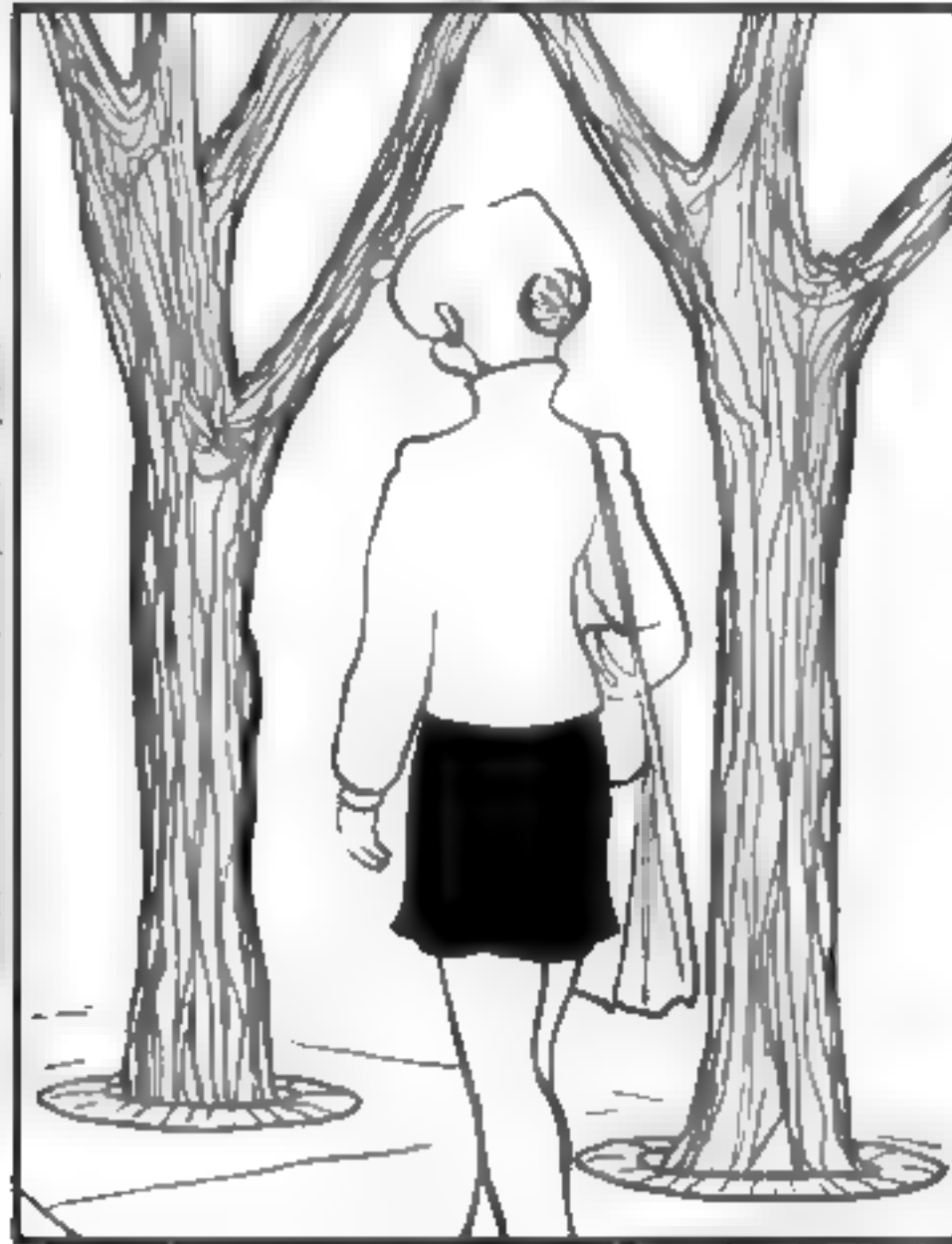
\*hic\*

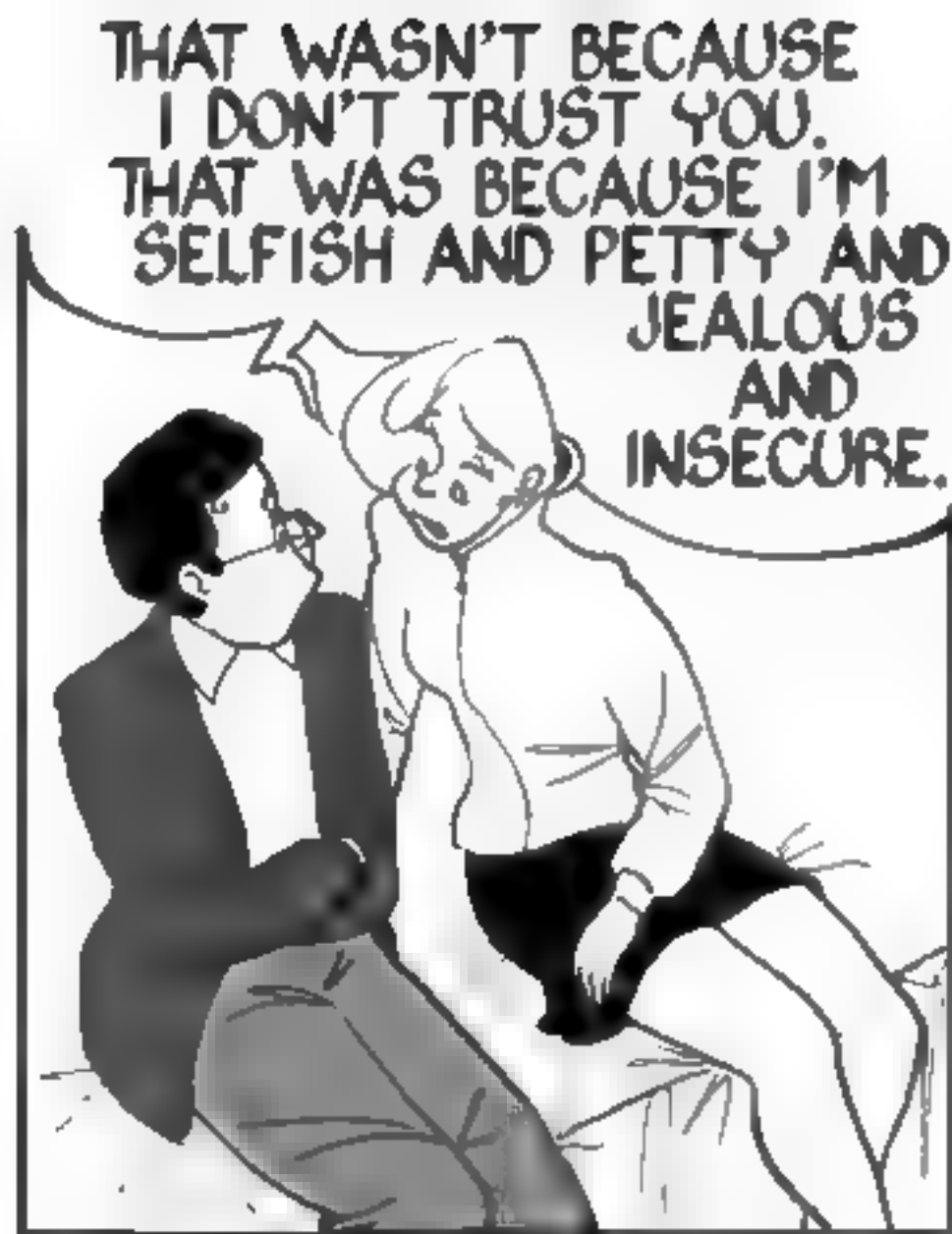
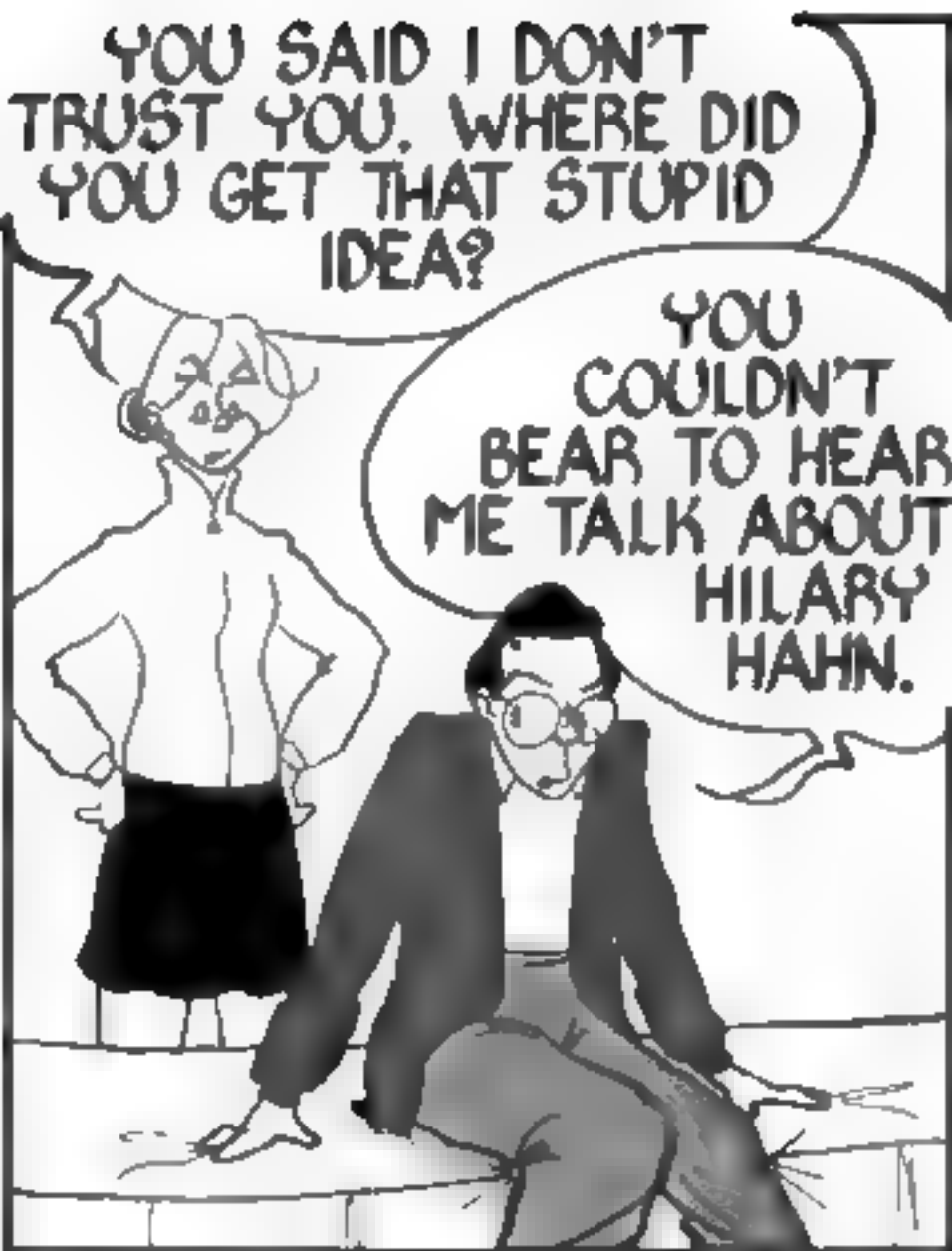
\*hic\*





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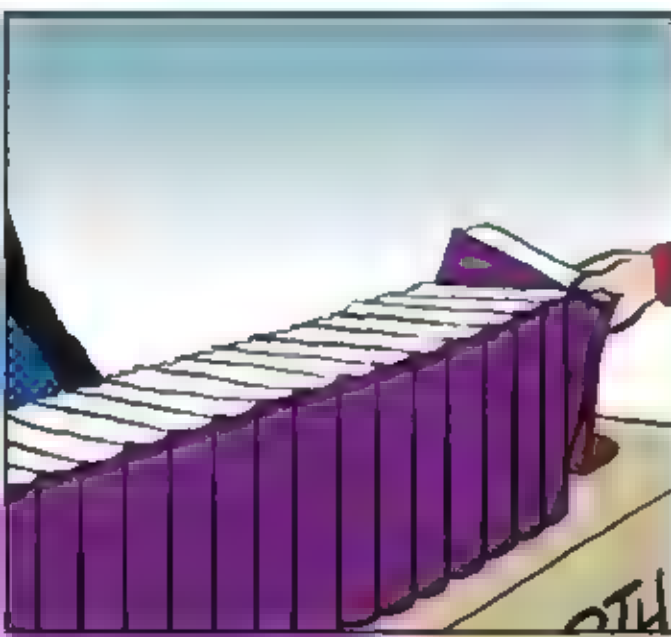
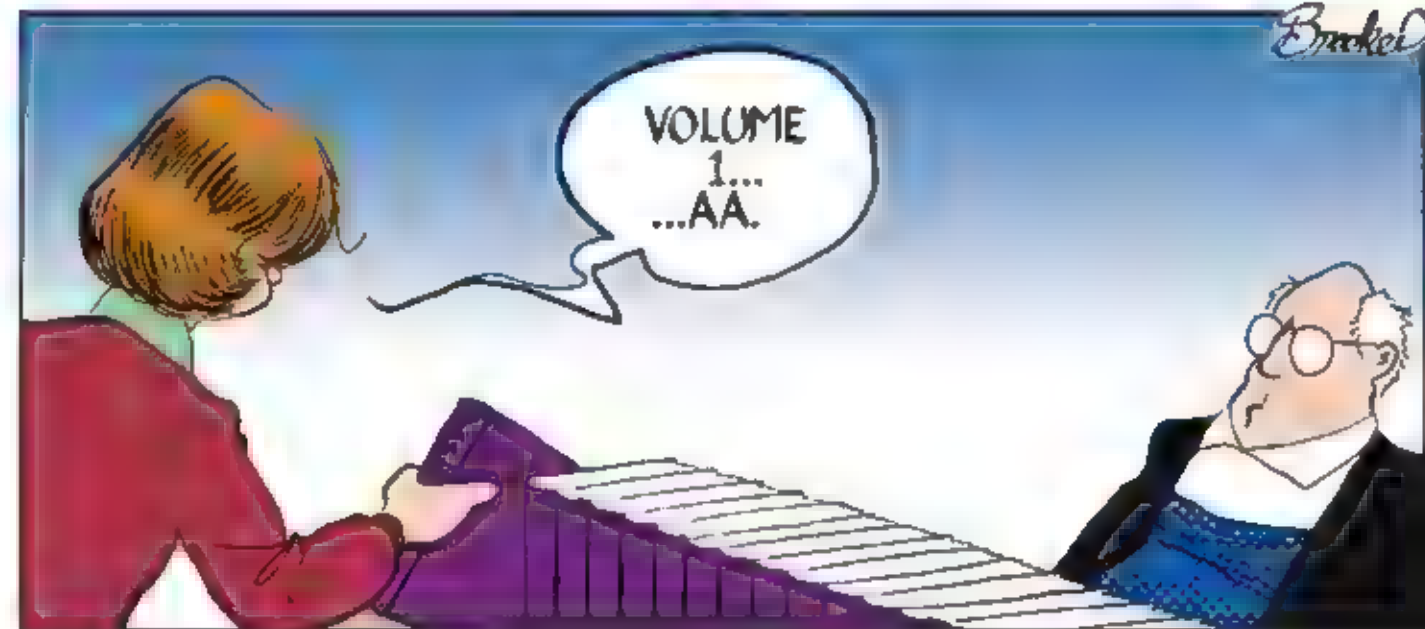
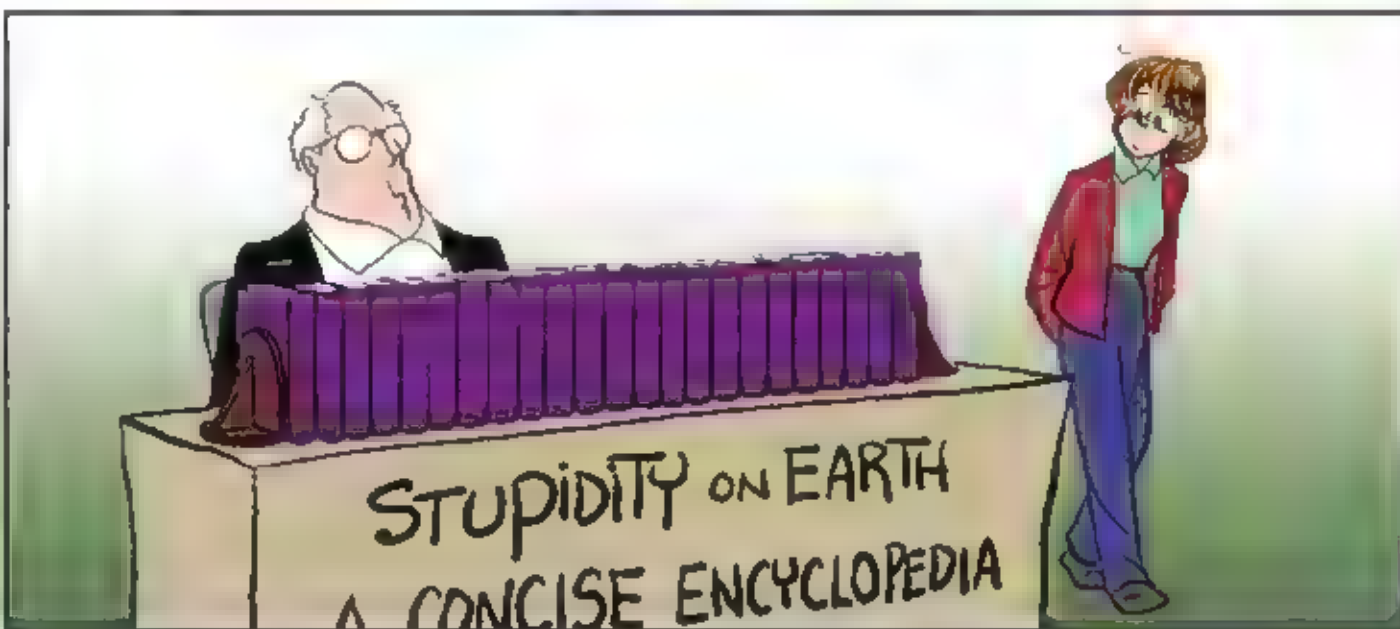
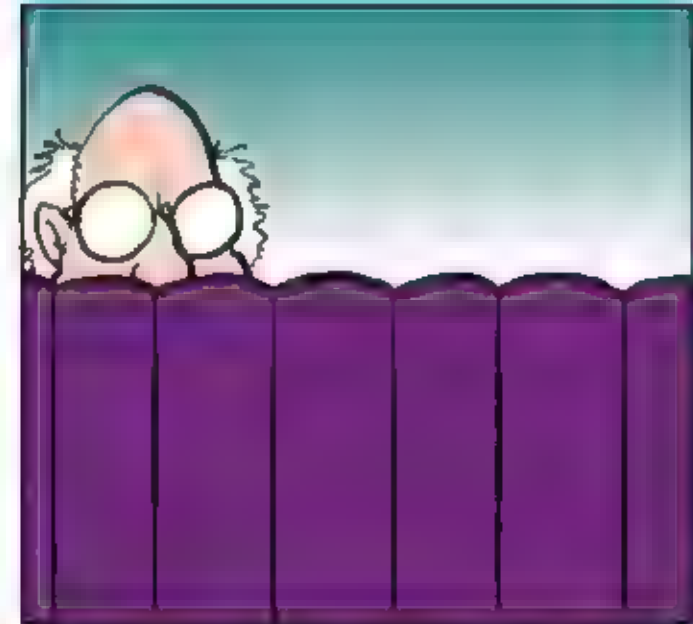












AFTER WE HEARD HILARY  
HAHN PLAY, ALL YOU COULD  
TALK ABOUT WAS HER.  
YOU SEEMED OBSESSED.

YOU DON'T  
UNDERSTAND.  
IT WAS HER  
PLAYING...  
IT TRANS-  
FIXED  
ME.

I CAN  
SPEAK OF  
HAHN AND HEIFETZ  
IN THE SAME BREATH.



BUT NOBODY EVER WILL  
SHARE ONE OF MY  
BREATHS WITH YOU.  
...YOU ARE MY  
ONE AND  
ONLY  
OBSESSION  
IN LIFE...  
...MY  
EXCLUSIVE  
AND  
ETERNAL  
INFATUATION.



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\*Hic\*

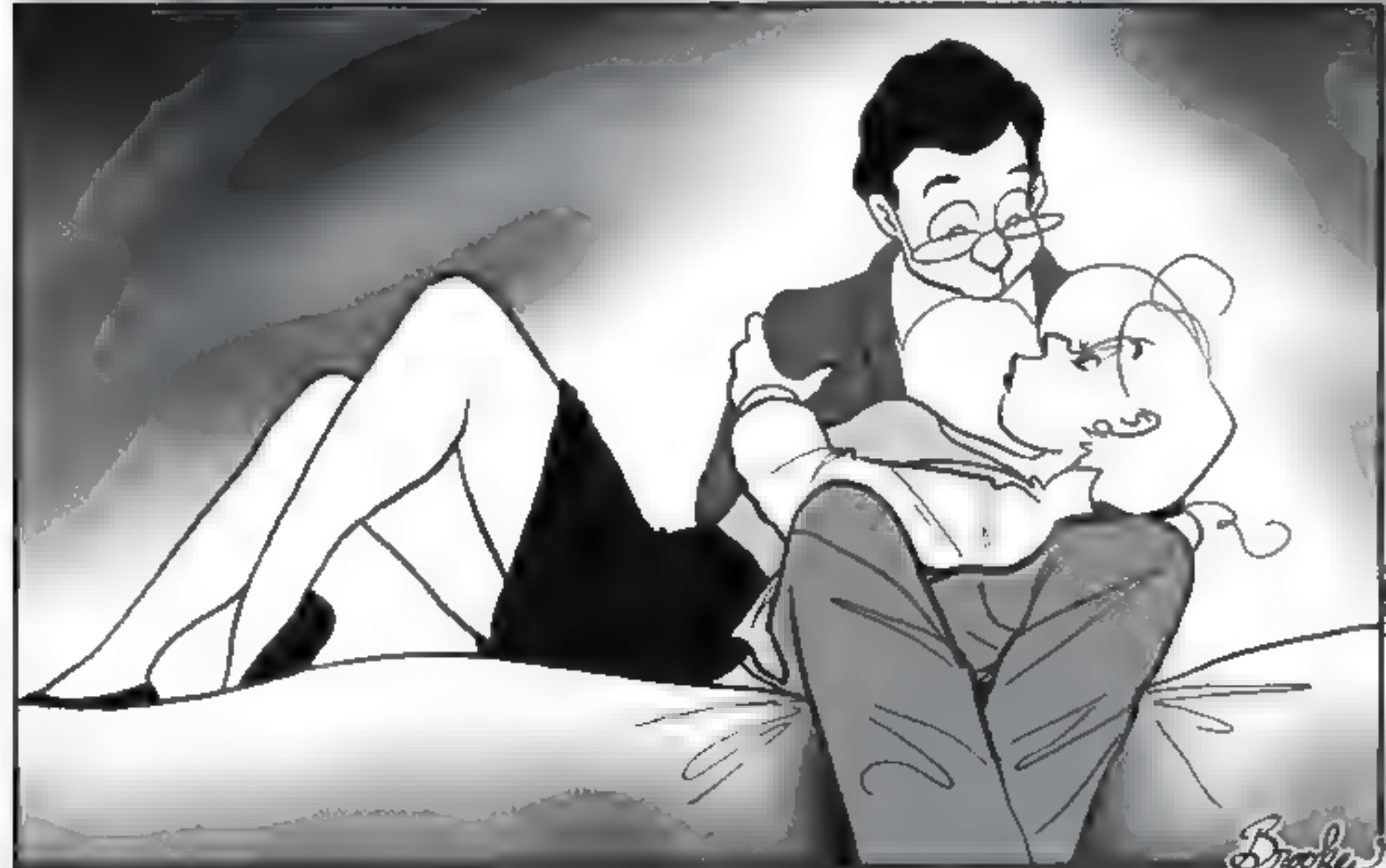


Brooke





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I'VE TRIED ALL THE HICCUP  
CURES...SIPPING FROM THE  
OPPOSITE  
SIDE OF A  
GLASS...  
...BREATHING  
INSIDE  
A BAG...



HOLD  
YOUR  
BREATH.

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HOLD MY BREATH?  
TO CURE  
HICCUPS?



NO.  
JUST  
CLAM UP  
AND HOLD  
YOUR  
BREATH.



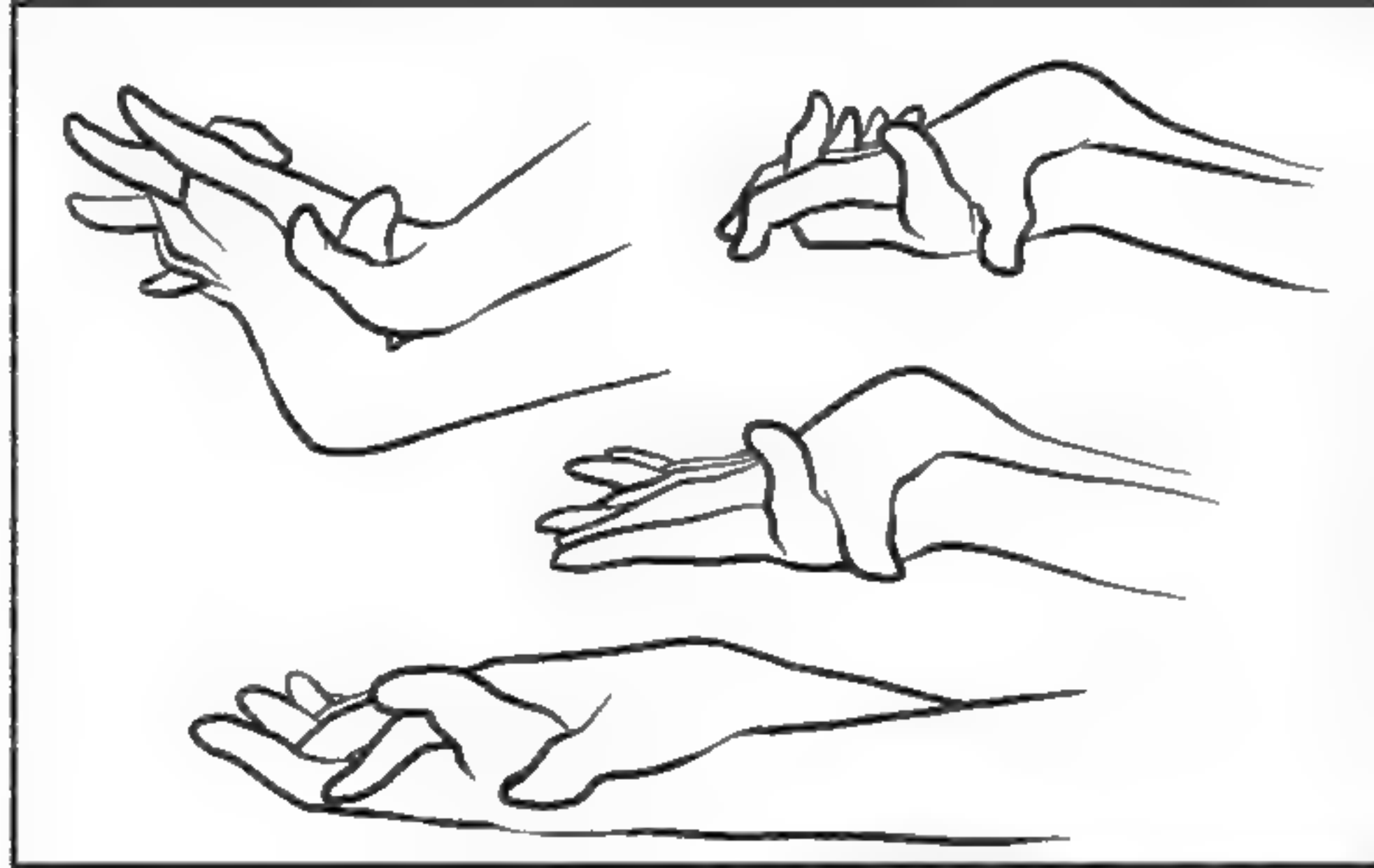
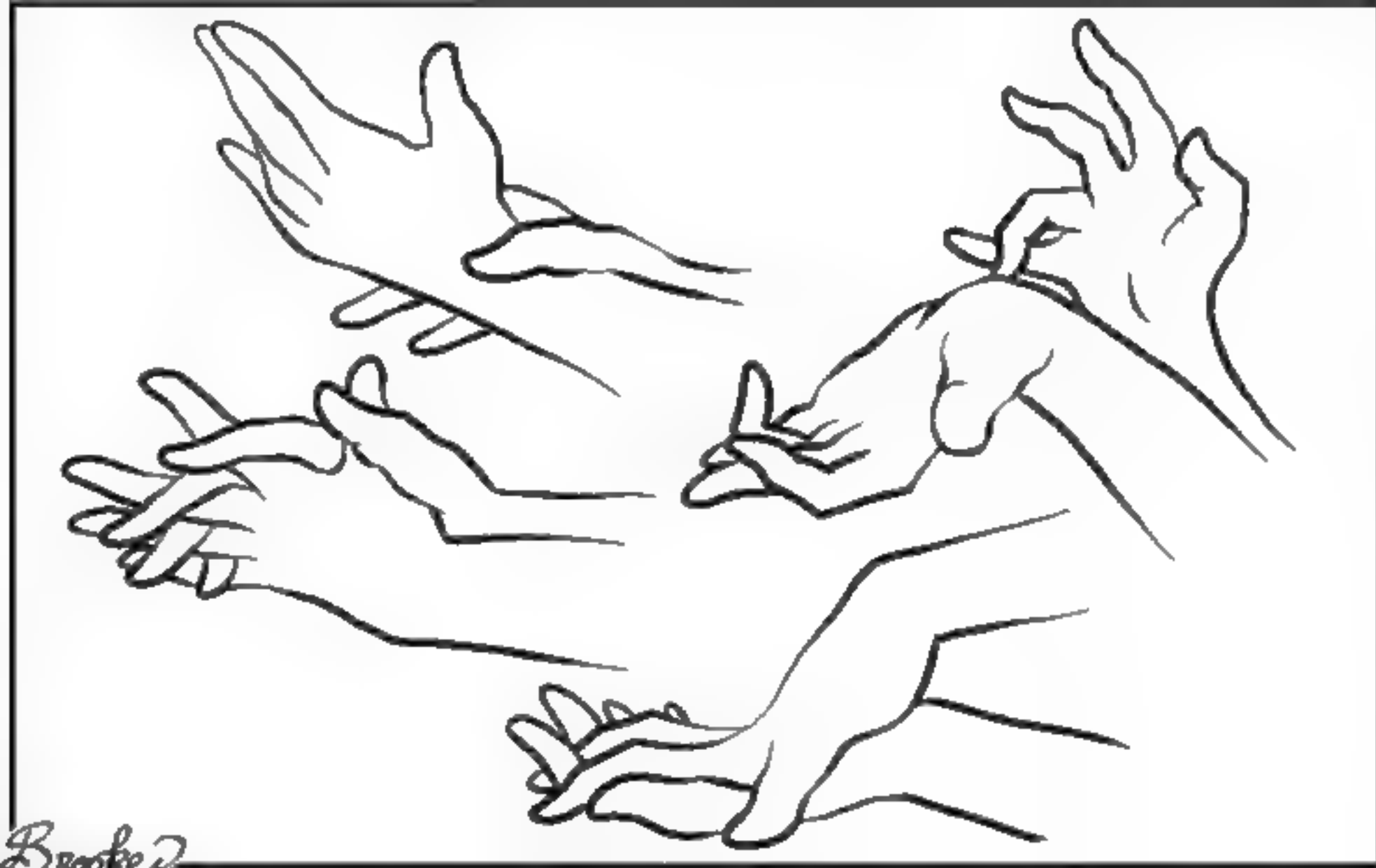
I WONDER IF AMOS AND  
EDDA ARE GETTING ANY  
TIME FOR SIGHTSEEING  
IN BRUSSELS.



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OH, THEY'RE PROBABLY  
BUSY BUSY BUSY.







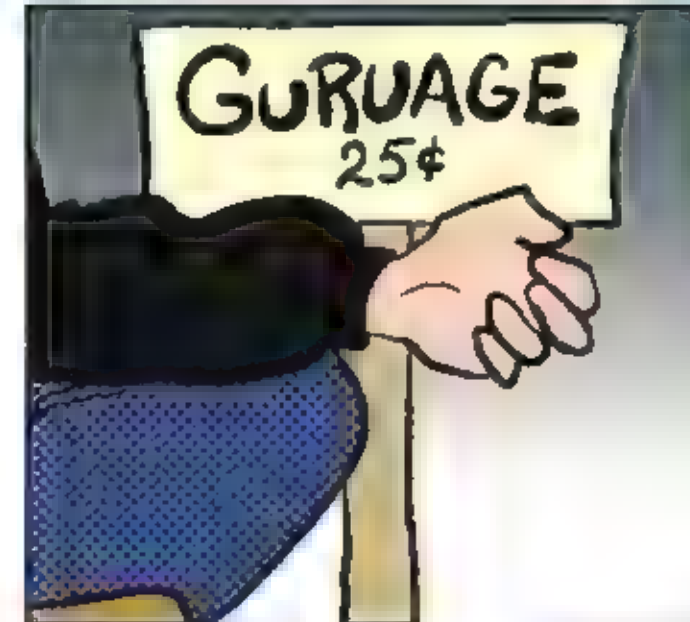
11-B ©2008 Brooke McEldowney Dist. by UFS, Inc.



SHE WAS RIGHT,  
IT DID GET RID  
OF MY  
HICCUPS.







BEING A POLITICIAN IS NOT JUST AN ISSUE OF HONESTY, BUT KNOWLEDGE AS WELL.



WITHOUT ALL THE FACTS, EVIDENCE, DETAILS, AND A THOROUGH, INFORMED UNDERSTANDING OF AN ISSUE, A POLITICIAN RUNS THE RISK OF OPENING HIS MOUTH IN PUBLIC AND HAPHAZARDLY UTTERING THE TRUTH.



THIS LEADS DOWN A SLIPPERY SLOPE TO A REPUTATION AMONG HIS PEERS FOR BEING ACCURATE, RELIABLE, HONEST AND, IN TIME, DANGEROUSLY TRUSTWORTHY.

THE ONLY THING LEFT FOR SUCH A PERSON IS THE BRAND OF LIAR, AND THE FUNCTION OF SCAPEGOAT.

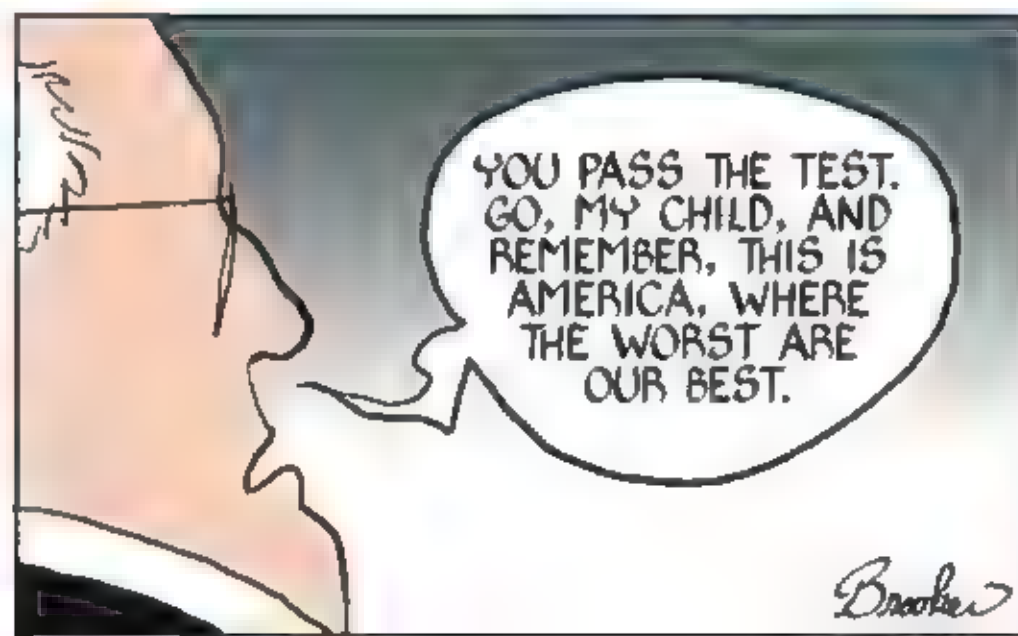


ARE YOU THE PERJURER WE EXPECT IN HIGH PUBLIC OFFICE?

NO!



YOU PASS THE TEST. GO, MY CHILD, AND REMEMBER, THIS IS AMERICA, WHERE THE WORST ARE OUR BEST.



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THERE IS A POD OF CORPORATE CEOs HERE SEEKING YOUR WISDOM.



AH, I THOUGHT I HEARD THE FLUTTER OF GOLDEN PARACHUTES.





HI, MOM, IT'S ME. I JUST WANTED TO ASK...DO YOU REMEMBER THAT STORY YOU TOLD ME ABOUT HOW YOU AND DAD WERE SUPPOSED TO ATTEND A HIGH SCHOOL DANCE, BUT YOU DITCHED IT...AND DAD HAD THE HICCUPS, AND THE SPECIAL WAY YOU MADE THEM GO AWAY?



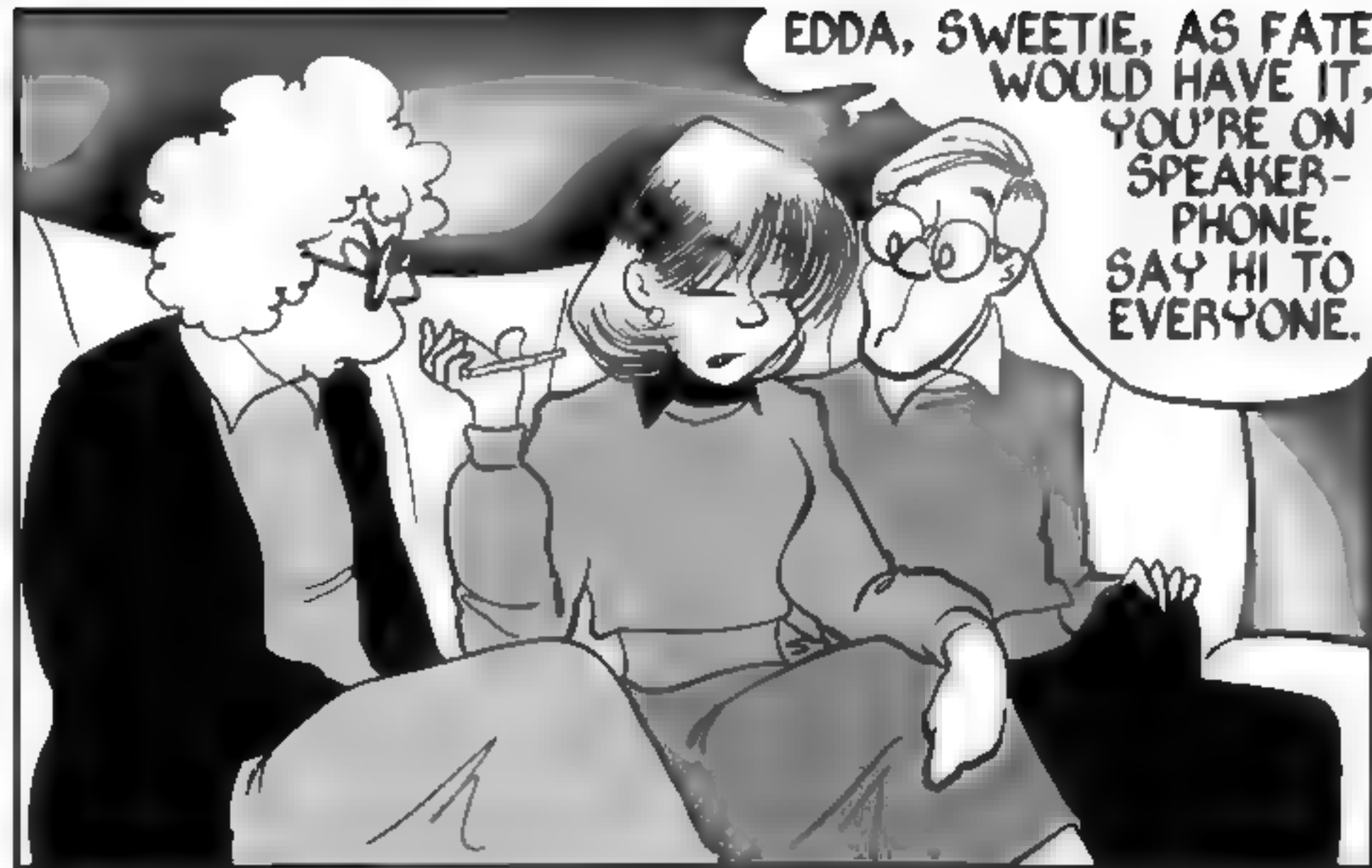
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WELL...

...I JUST MADE AMOS' HICCUPS GO AWAY.

*Brooke*

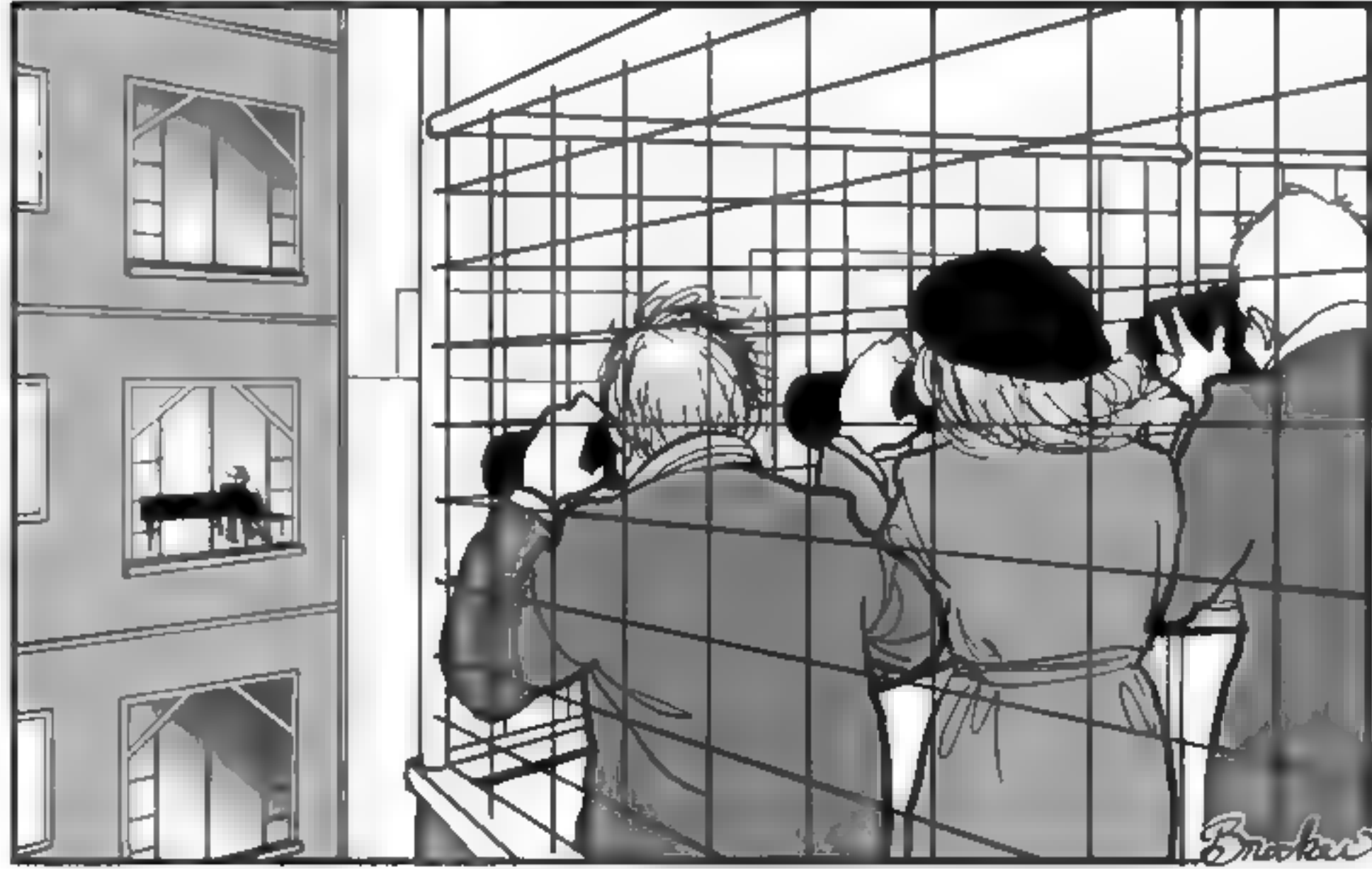


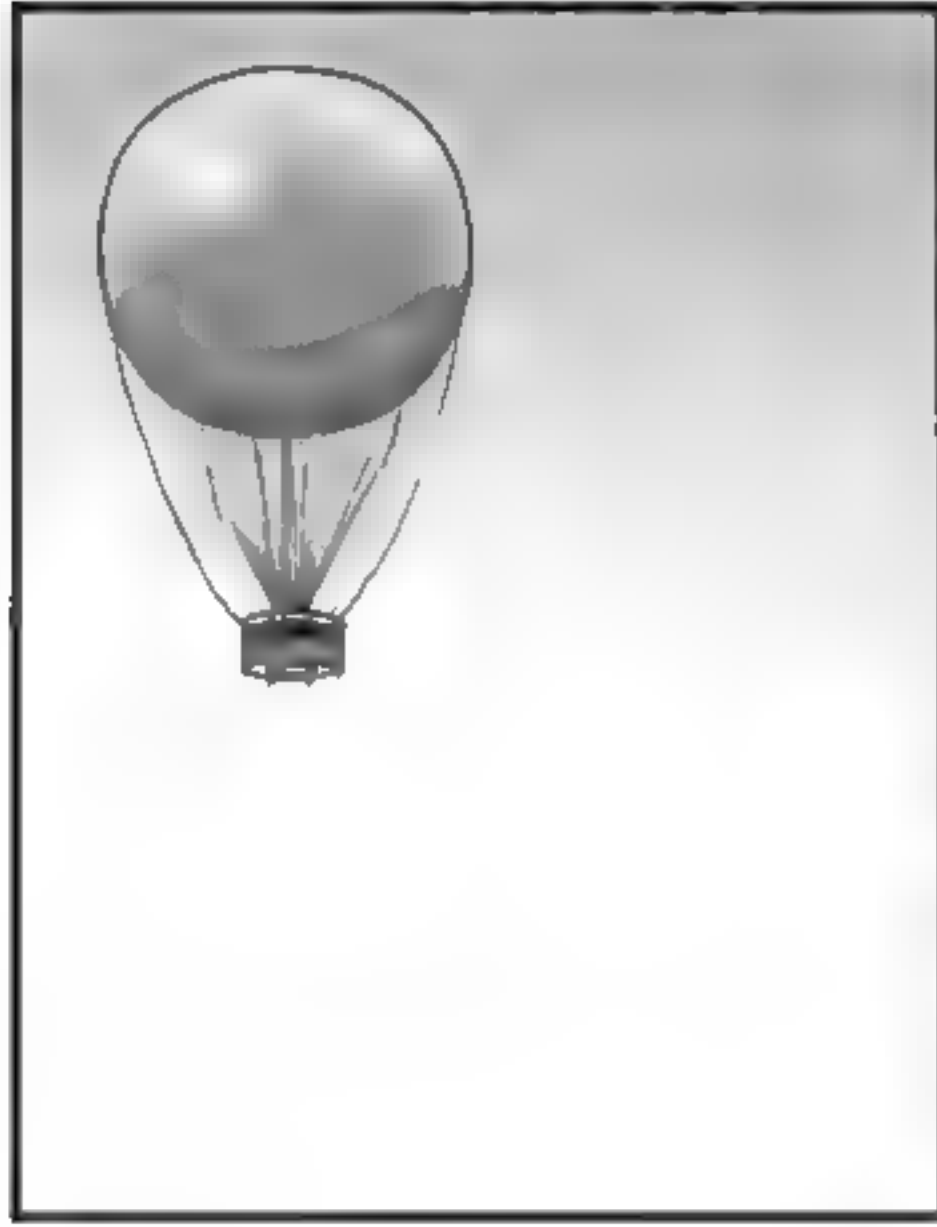
EDDA, SWEETIE, AS FATE WOULD HAVE IT, YOU'RE ON SPEAKER-PHONE. SAY HI TO EVERYONE.





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MOTHER, I PICKED UP  
A SATELLITE BROADCAST  
FROM BRUSSELS.  
IT'S ABOUT THE FORRESTIER  
COMPETITION FINALISTS.  
THEY'RE GOING TO SHOW  
AMOS AND...

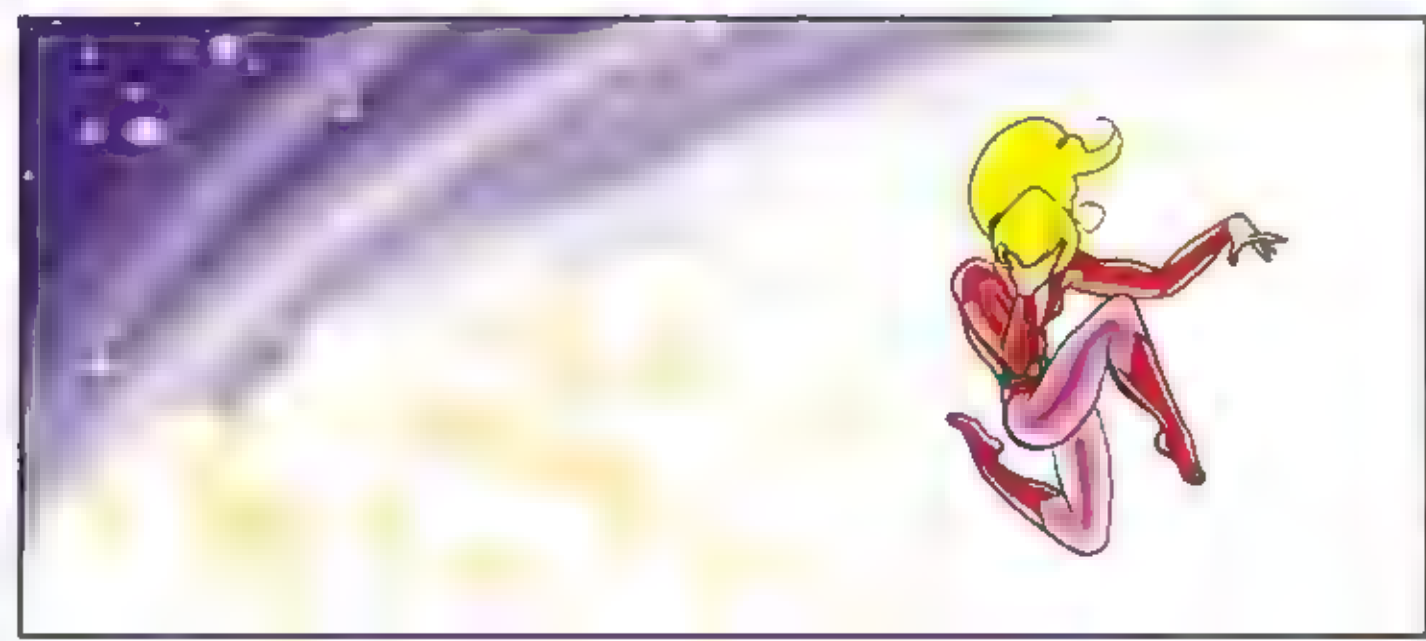
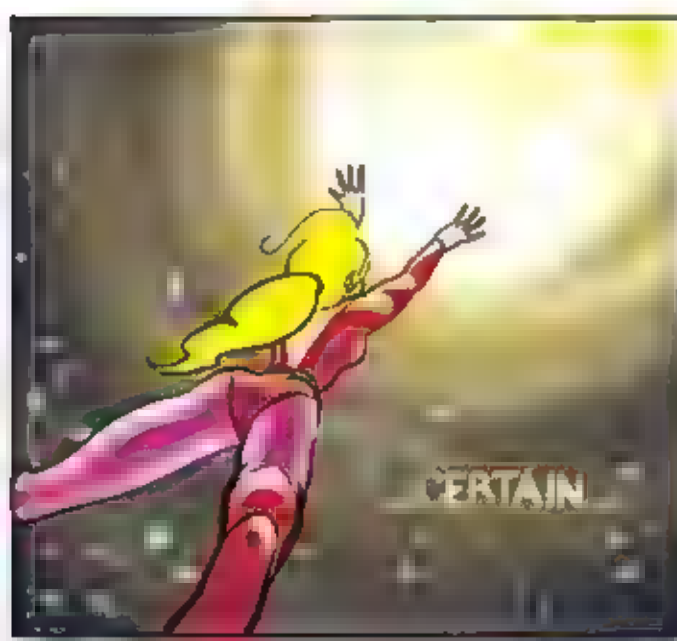
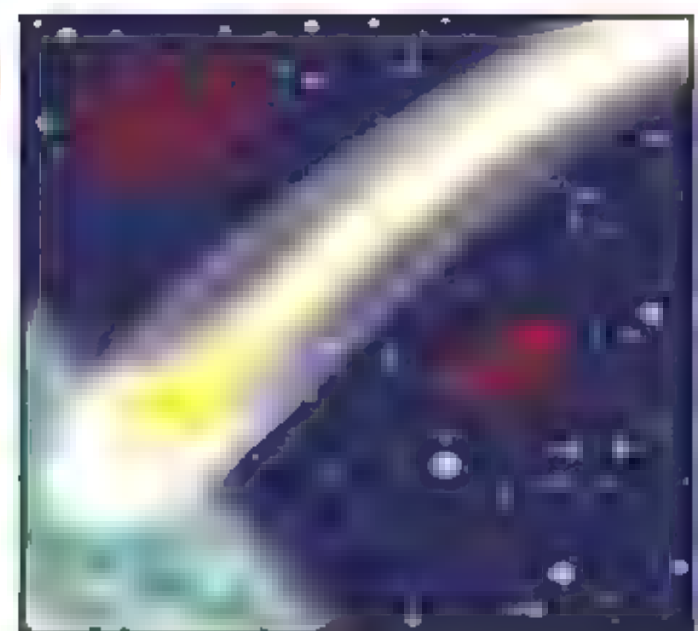


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Brooke

# 9 CHICKWEED LANE





YOU KIDS SURE KNOW HOW  
TO DO THINGS IN STYLE.  
THERE ARE PICTURES AND  
A FILM OF YOU AND AMOS  
RAMPANT ON A  
BÖSENDORFER.  
IT'S ALL  
OVER THE  
INTERNET.  
I JUST  
SAW IT.



YOU DID?!




ISABEL  
SAW IT  
TOO.



SHE  
DID?!





JUST TELL  
ME THIS,  
SETH...  
...HOW DID  
YOU KNOW  
IT WAS ME  
ON THE  
FILM?



WHAT DO  
YOU MEAN,  
YOU  
RECOGNIZED  
"PART" OF  
ME?

*Broken*

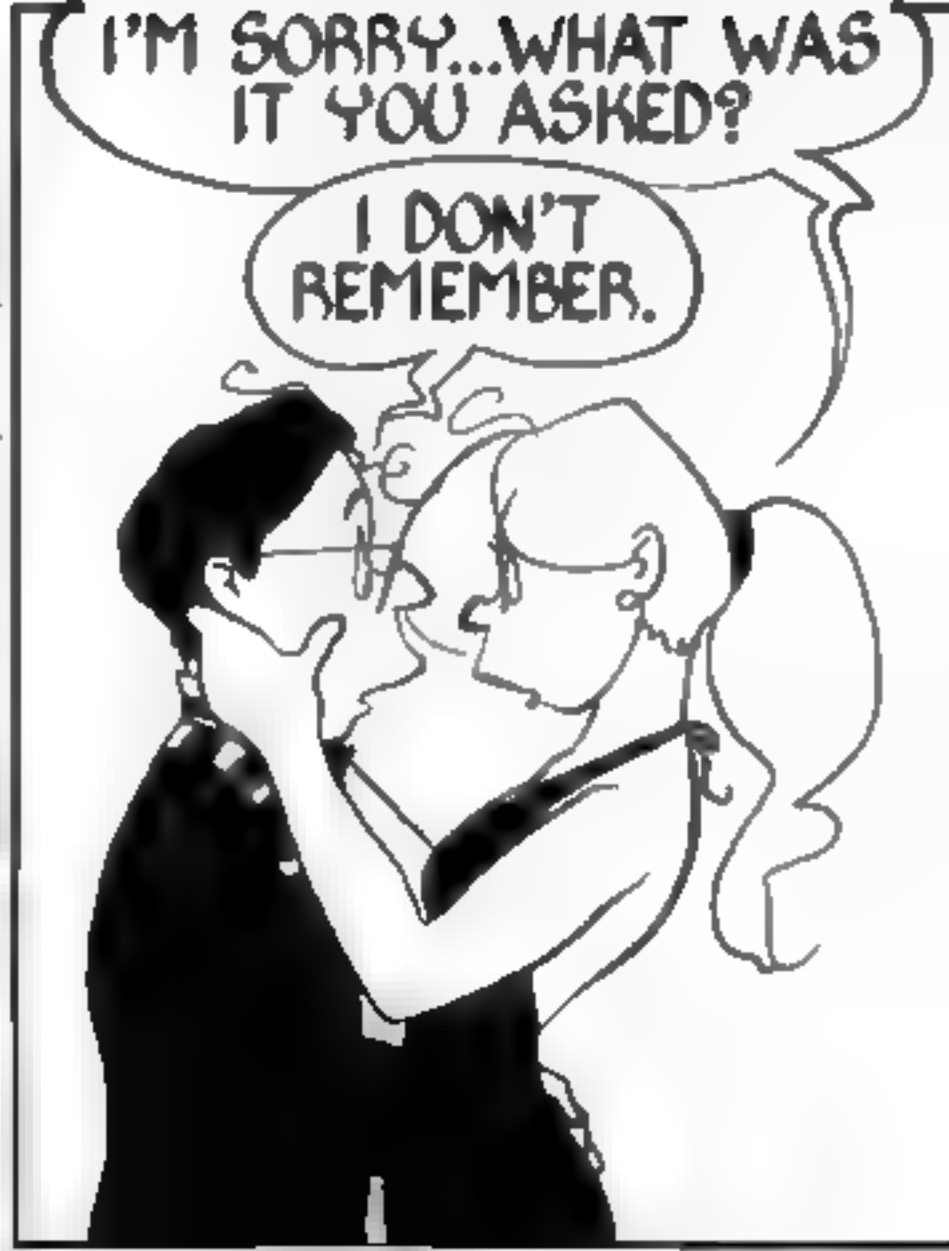


"THE PART  
THEY DIDN'T  
BLUR"...?





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FUNNY...EVERYONE IN THE  
STREET IS LOOKING  
AT US.



THEY MUST BE AWARE  
YOU'RE A  
FINALIST.

I  
DON'T  
THINK  
SO.

ALL  
THE MEN  
ARE  
LOOKING  
AT YOU,  
AND  
THEY'RE  
SMILING.



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ALL OF THE WOMEN  
ARE LOOKING AT  
YOU TOO...  
...BUT THEY'RE  
NOT SMILING.



I'VE NEVER SEEN  
SUCH A BIG AUDIENCE.  
THE HALL IS CRAMMED  
TO THE EXIT  
SIGNS.



Backer

THE FORRESTIER FINALS  
MUST BE POPULAR  
HERE.

NOT THAT  
POPULAR.  
I... \*Hic\*



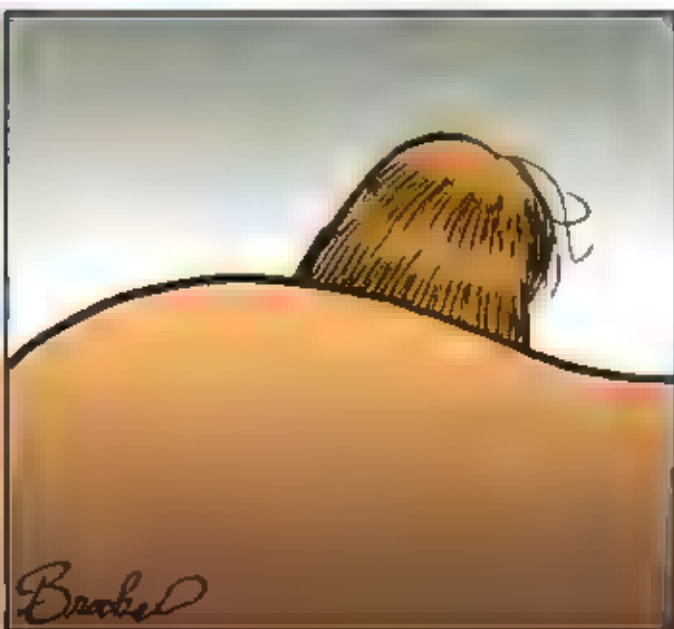
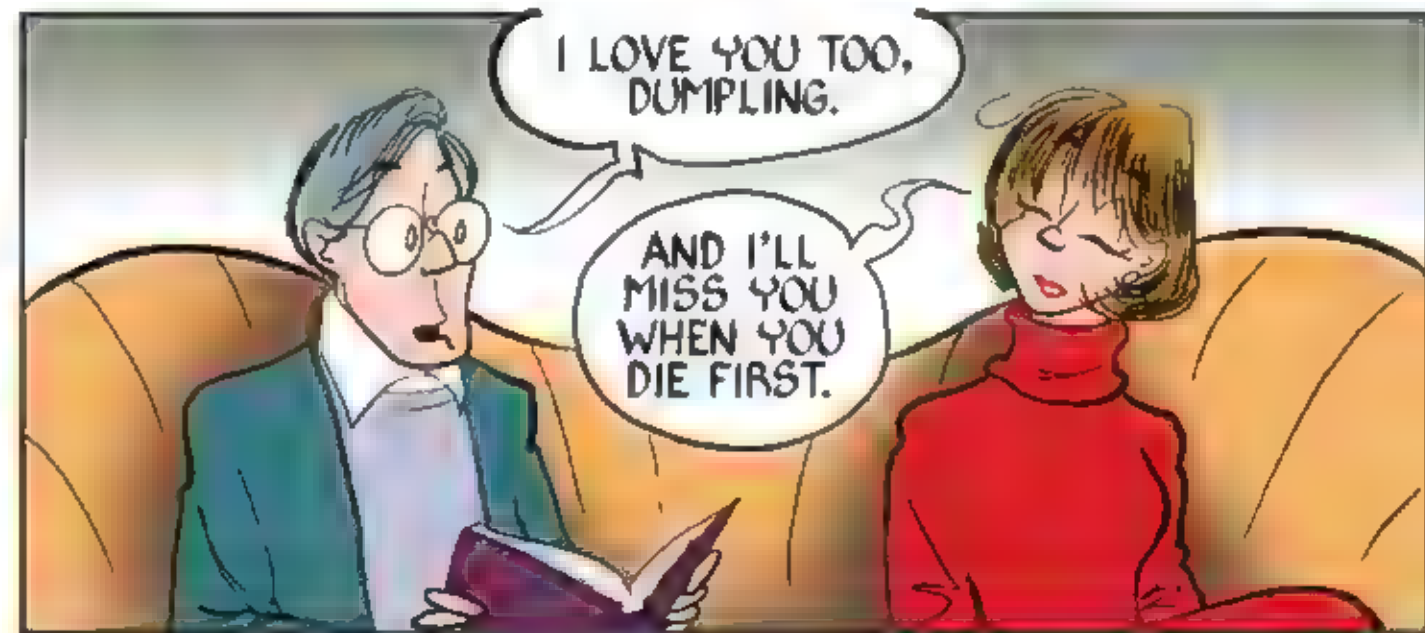
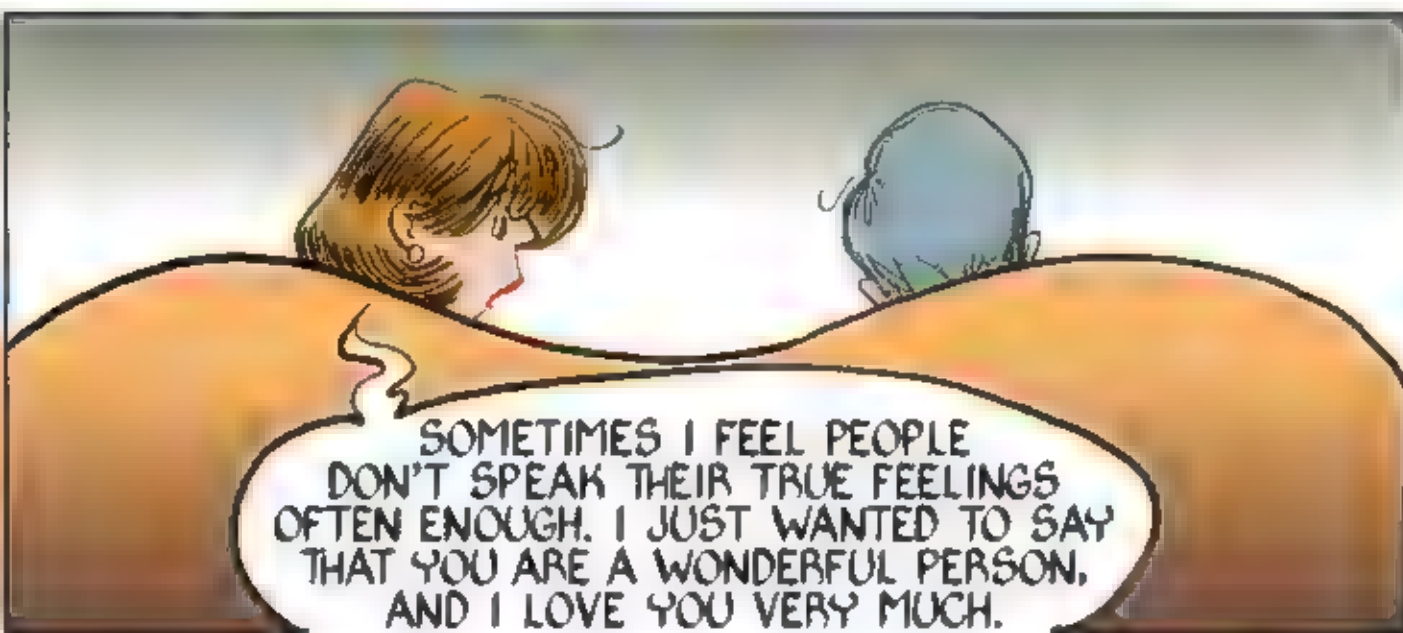
MONSIEUR, MADEMOISELLE,  
\*Hic\* ...CINQ  
MINUTES.



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I believe he said,  
...five minutes.





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HE HAD A CASE OF THE  
HICCUPS. SHE TOOK HIM  
IN HERE TO EFFECT A CURE.



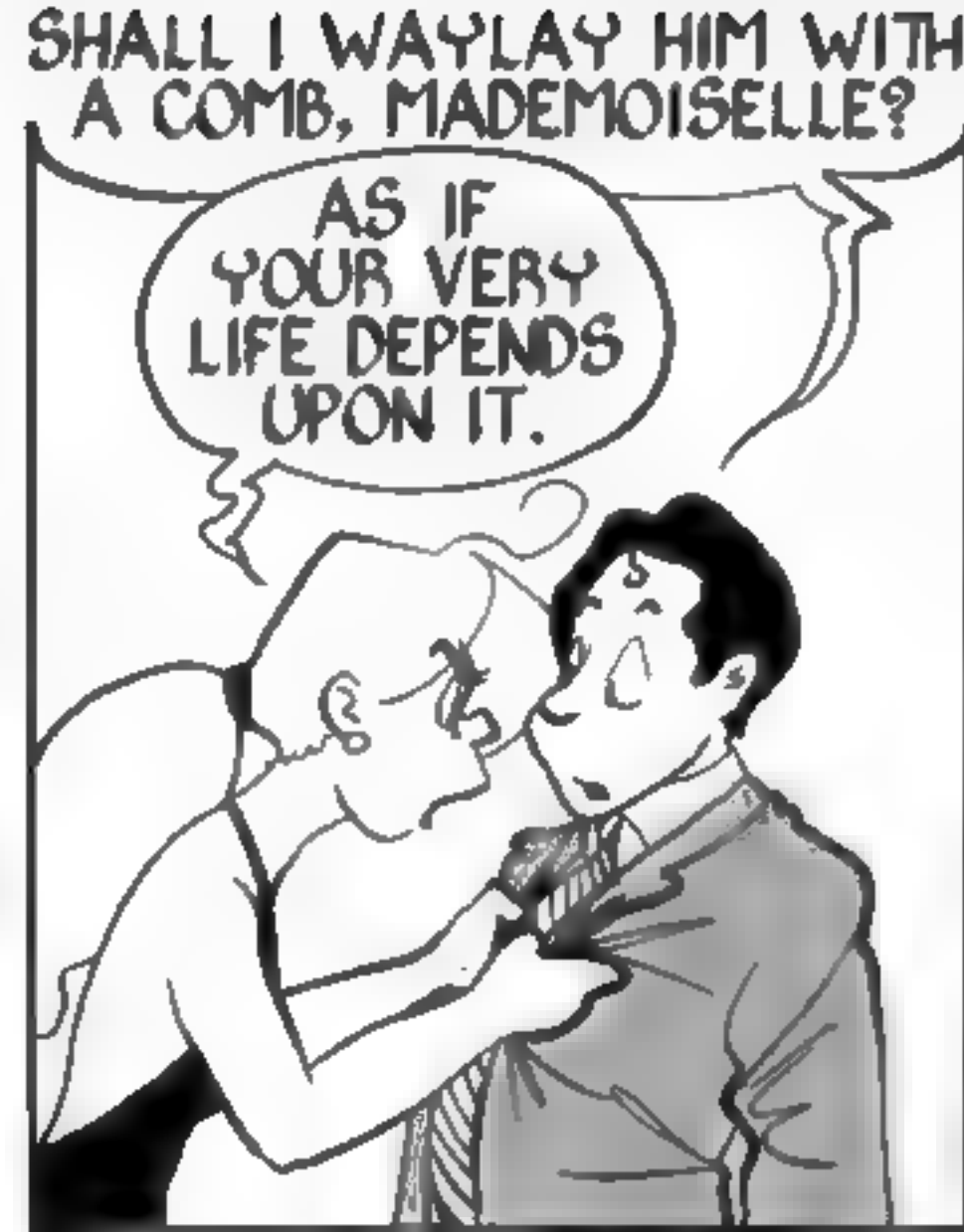
IS SHE GIVING  
HIM A GLASS  
OF WATER?



YES, I BELIEVE SO...A VERY,  
VERY GOOD GLASS OF WATER.

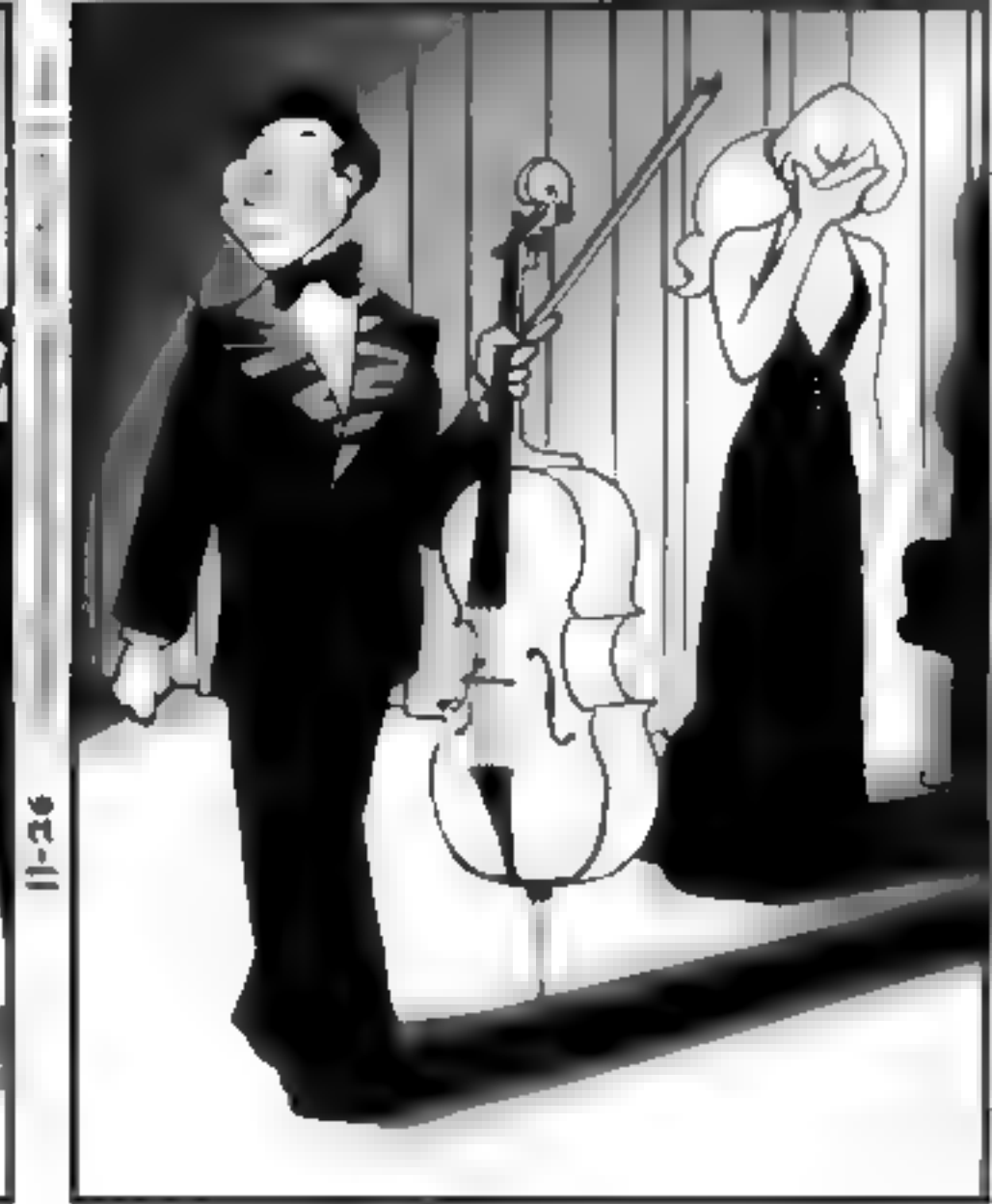








Brooke



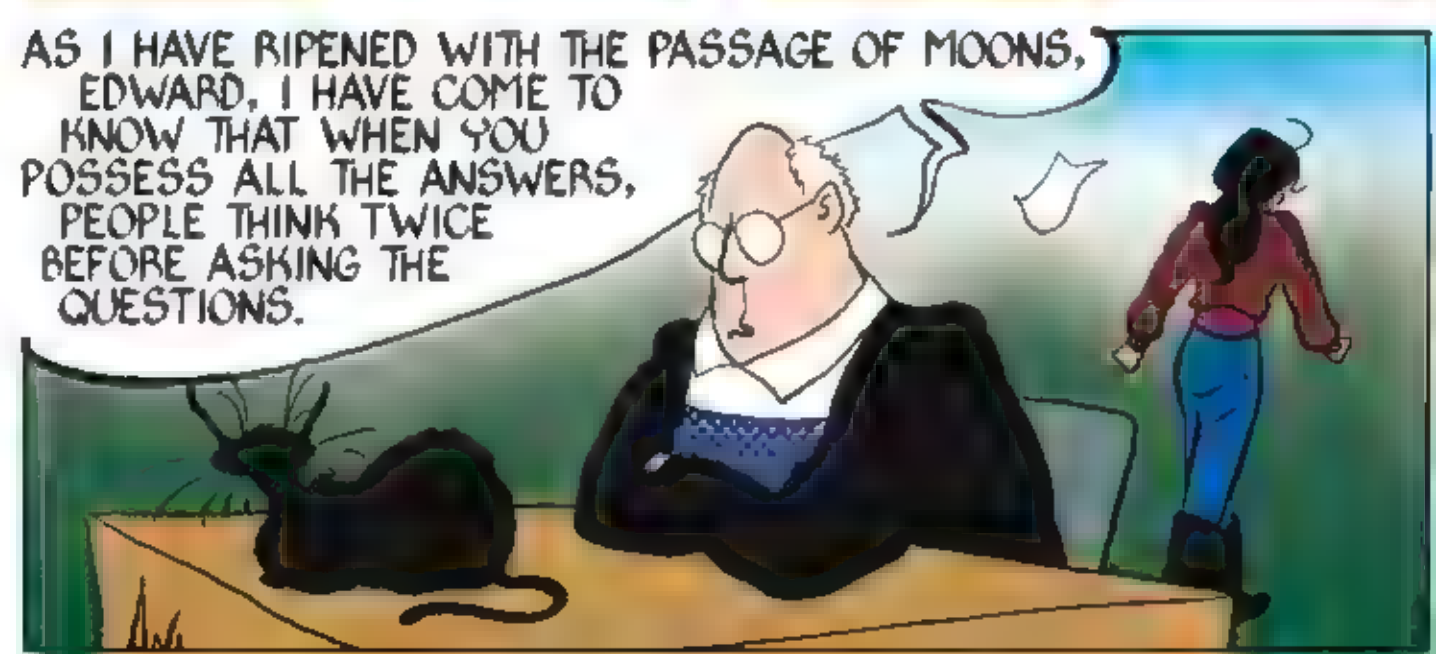
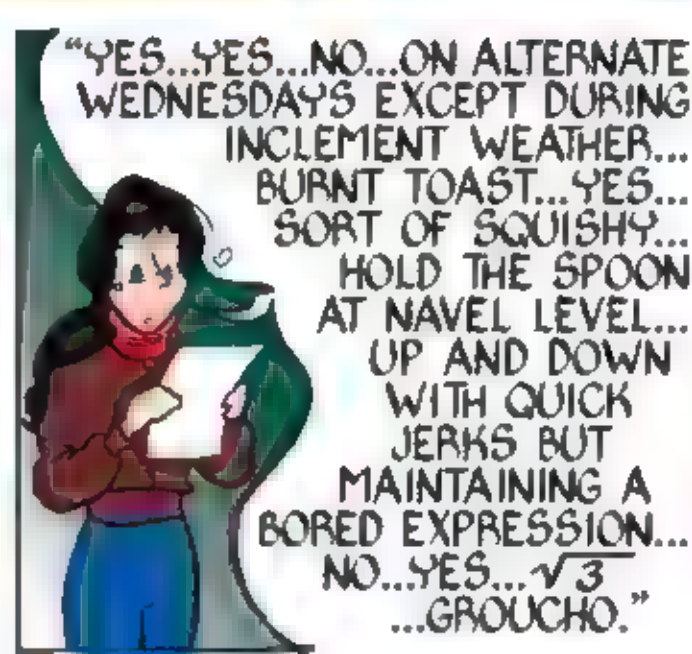
11-26

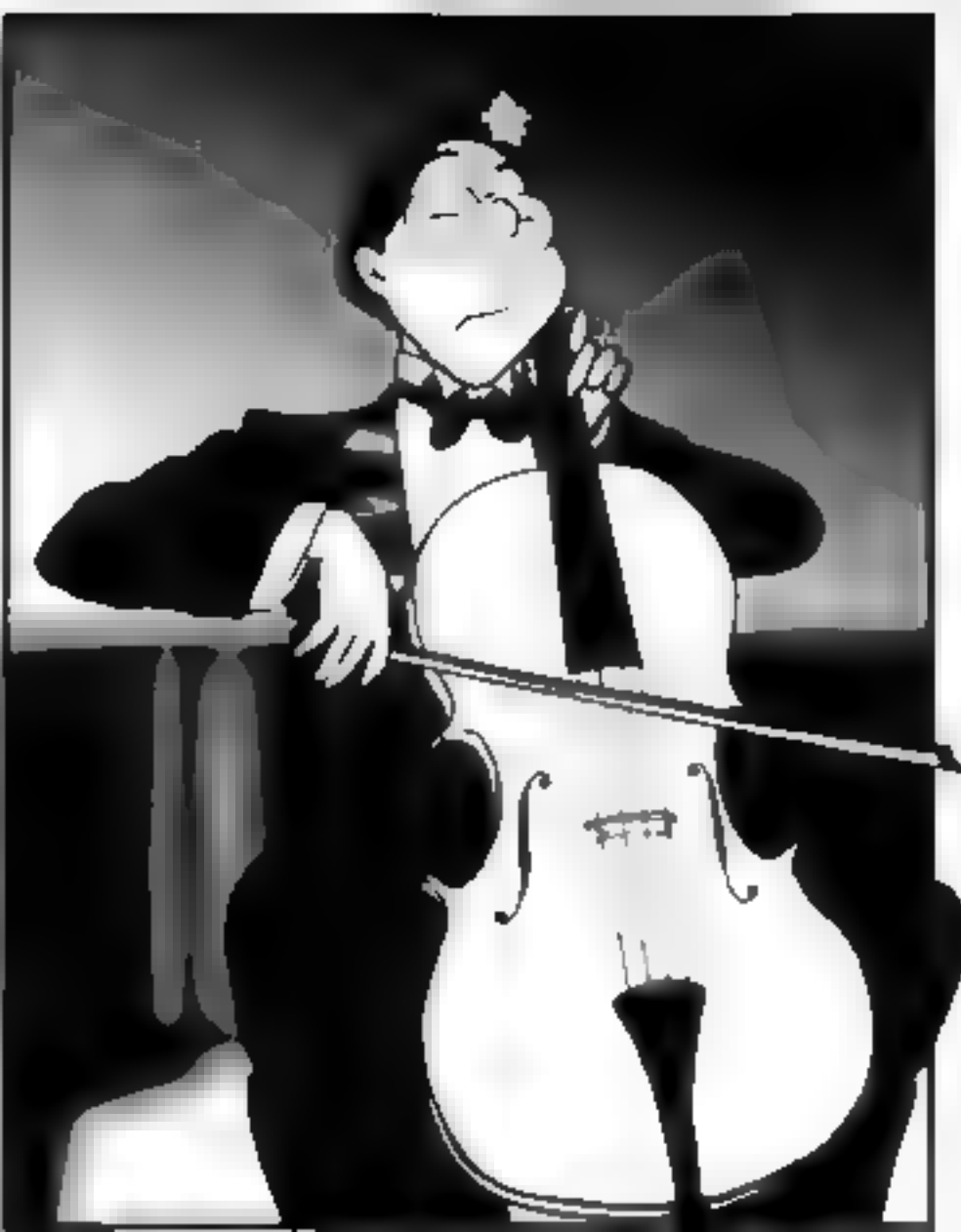


















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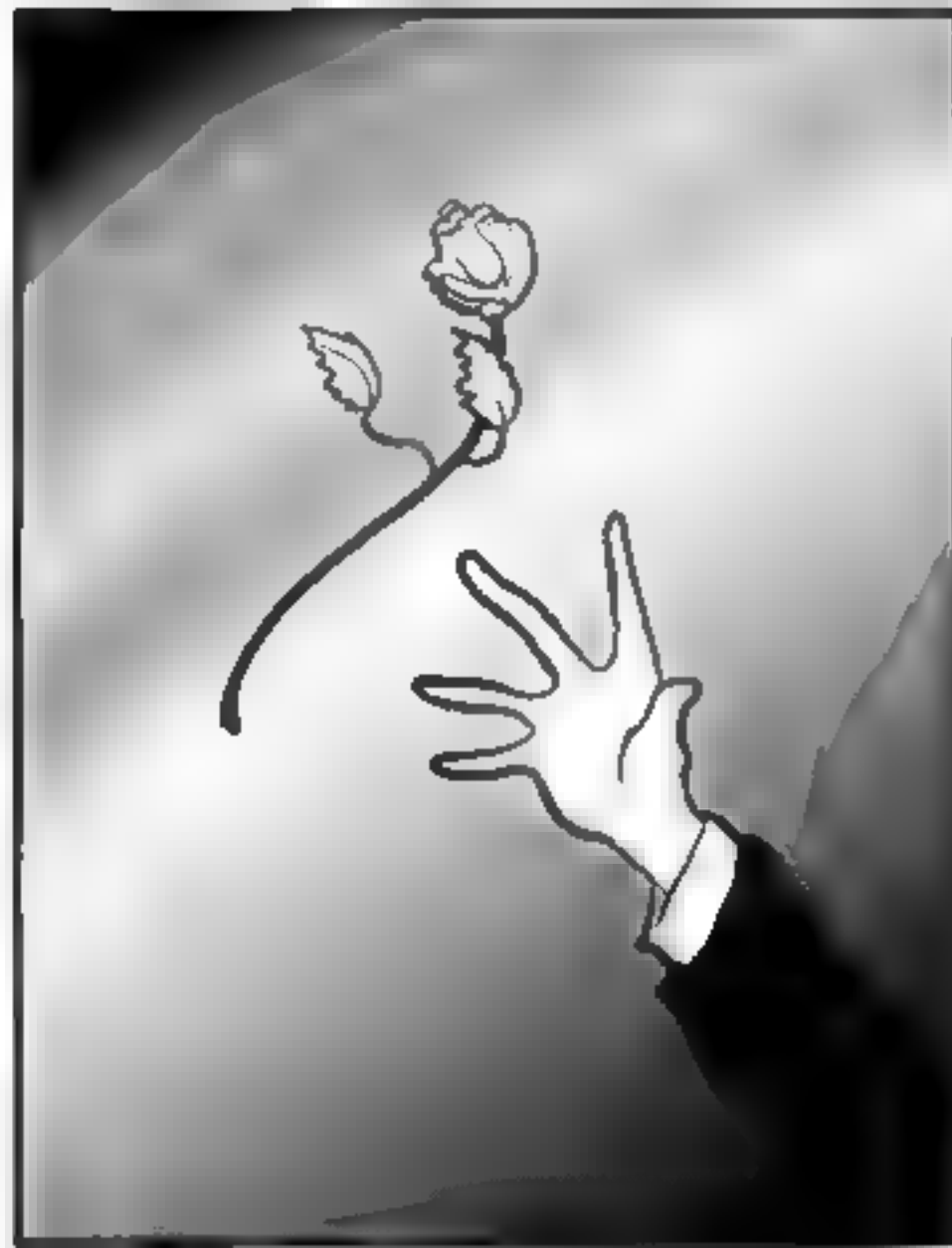
Brooke





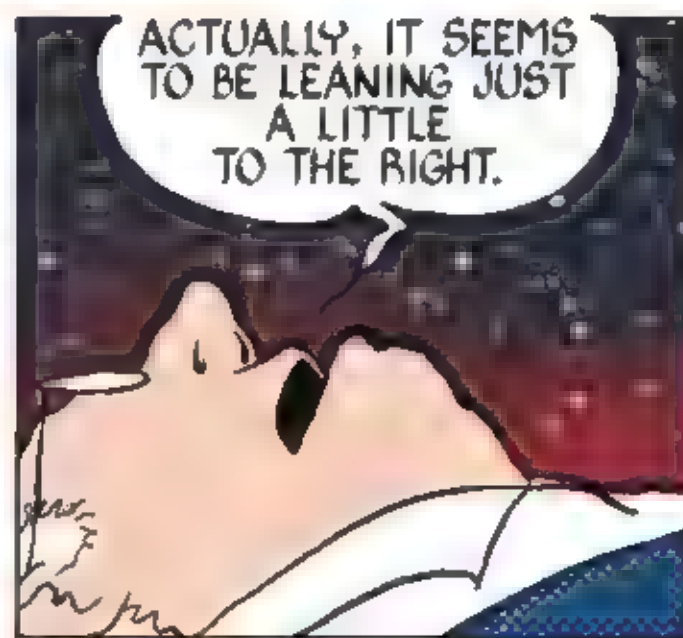
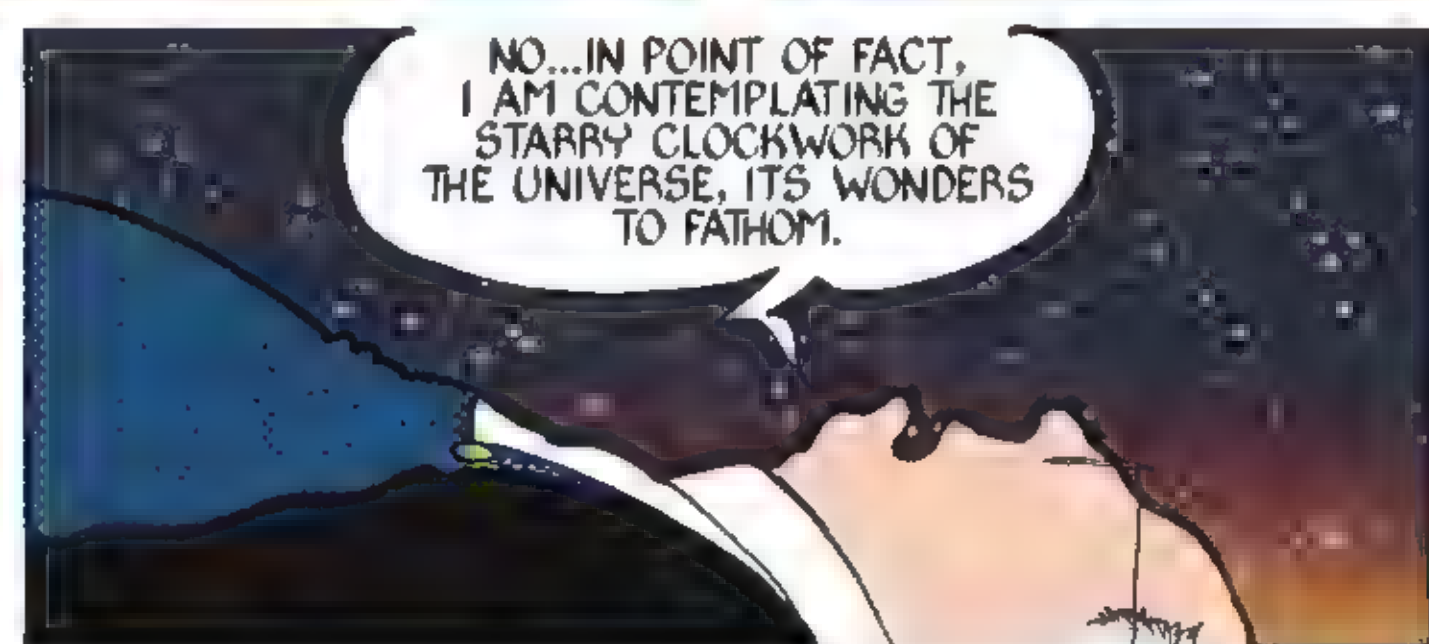
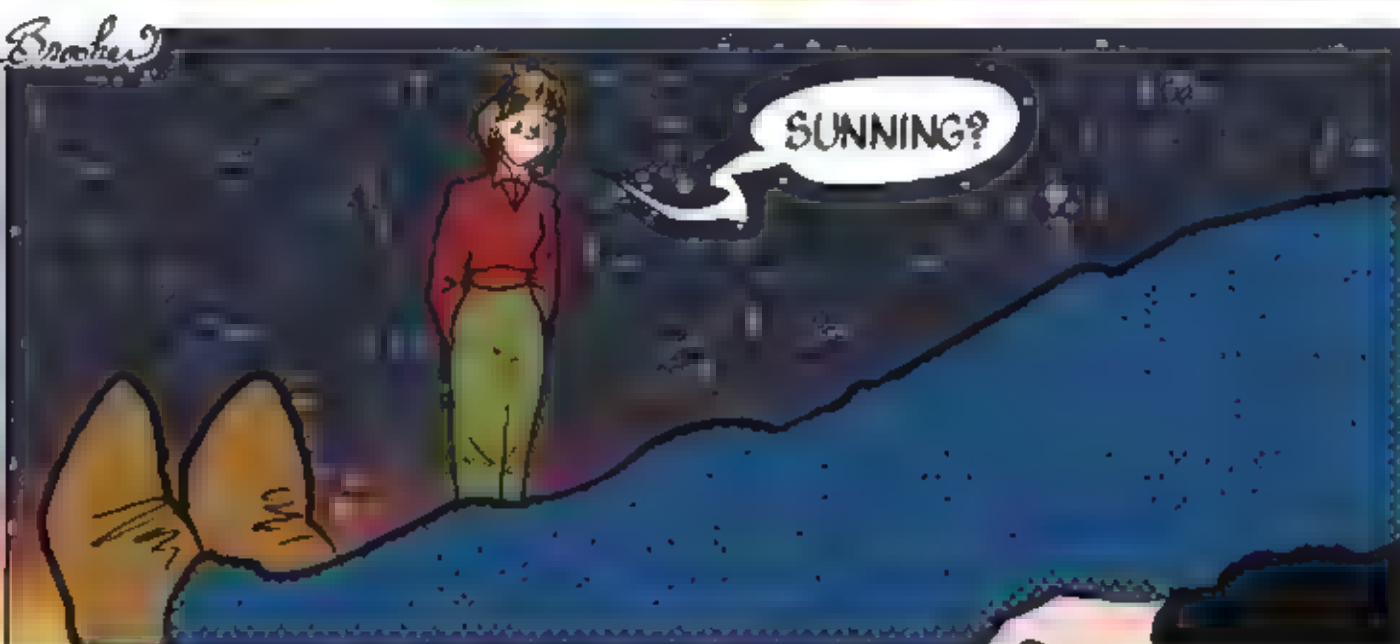
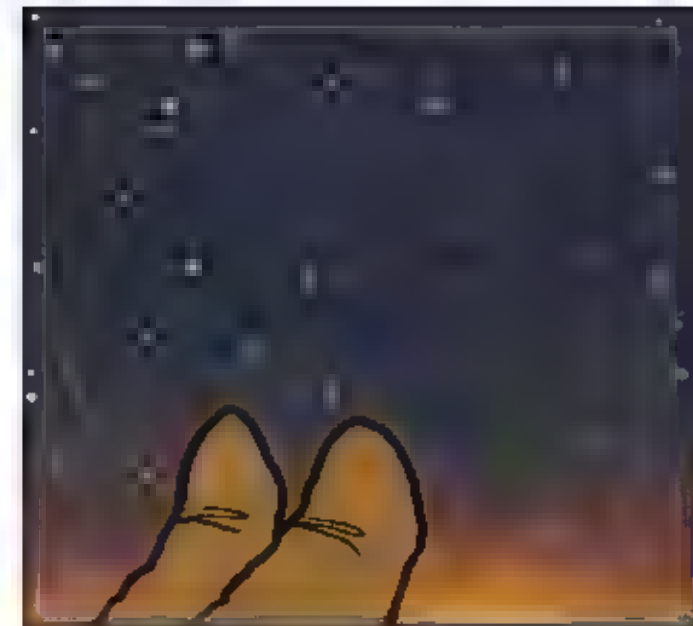
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MESDAMES ET MESSIEURS...  
...WITHOUT DISCUSSION  
OR DISSENT...  
...BY UNANIMOUS  
ACCLAIM...



Brooke

...THE JURY AWARDS THE  
FIRST PRIZE OF THE 56<sup>TH</sup>  
CONCOURS FORRESTIER  
INTERNATIONALE...



IF HE SPEAKS WITH  
ONE MORE ELLIPSIS,  
I'M GOING TO  
SCREAM.

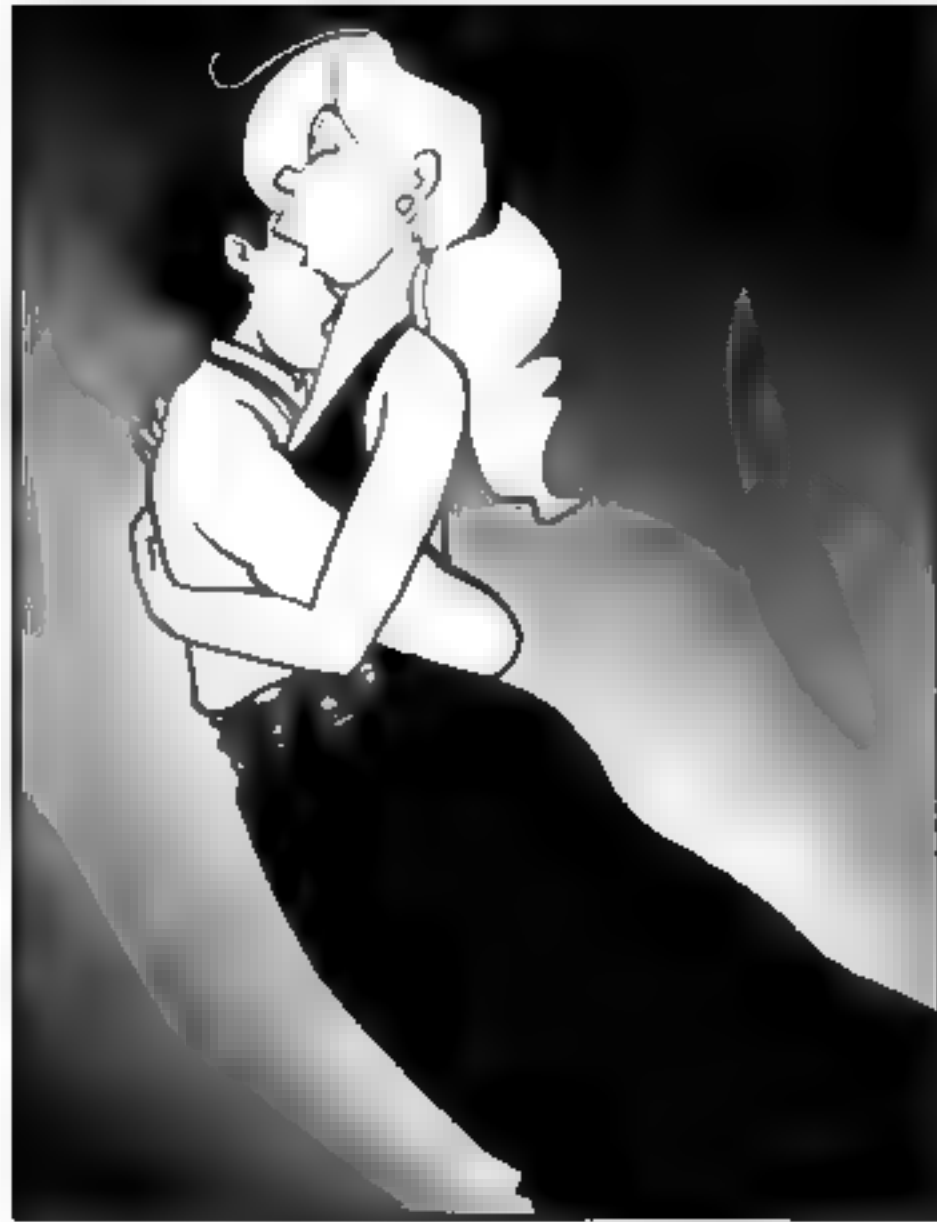


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THAT WAS THE HEAD OF THE  
FORRESTIER COMMITTEE...

OH, I FORGOT...  
I HAVE A PRESS  
CONFERENCE.



ACTUALLY, YOU DON'T.  
YOU'RE NOT THE WINNER.  
THE PRIZE HAS BEEN  
DISPUTED.



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WHYYYYY?

WELL...  
YOU SEE...  
...THE FUNNIEST  
THING  
HAPPENED...



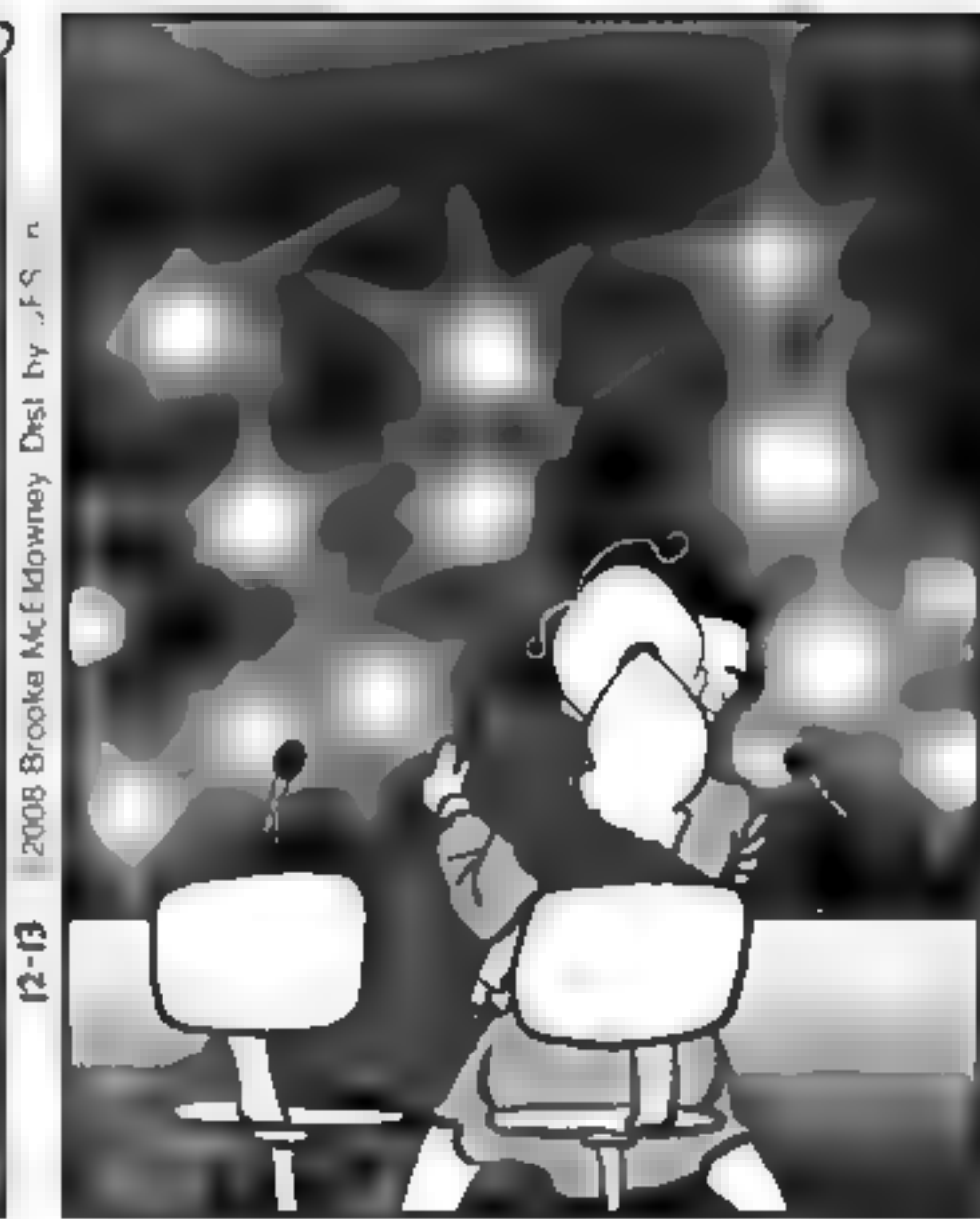
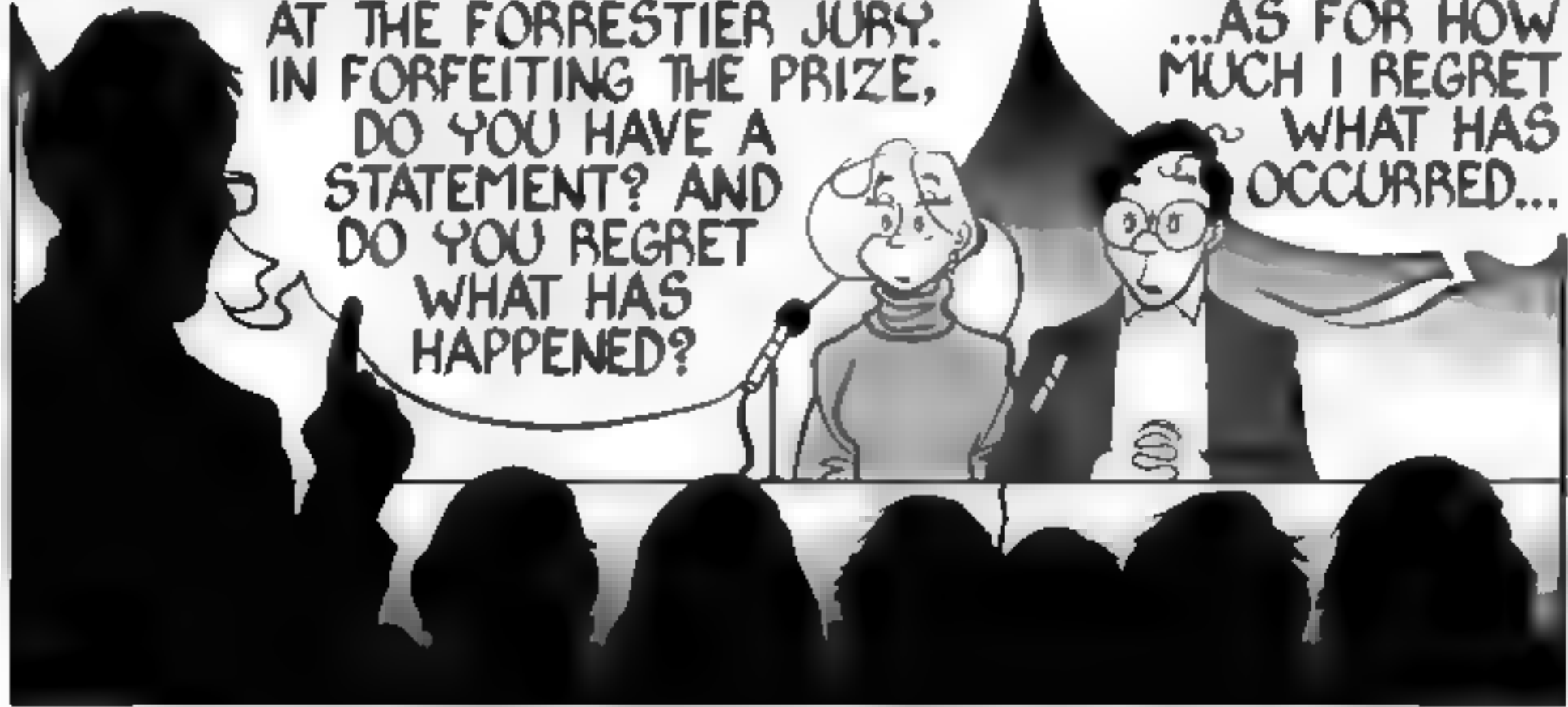


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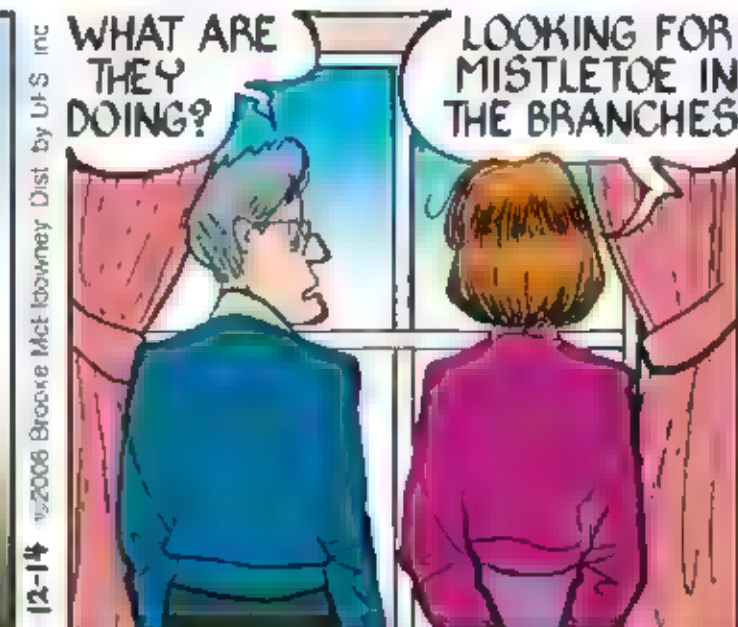
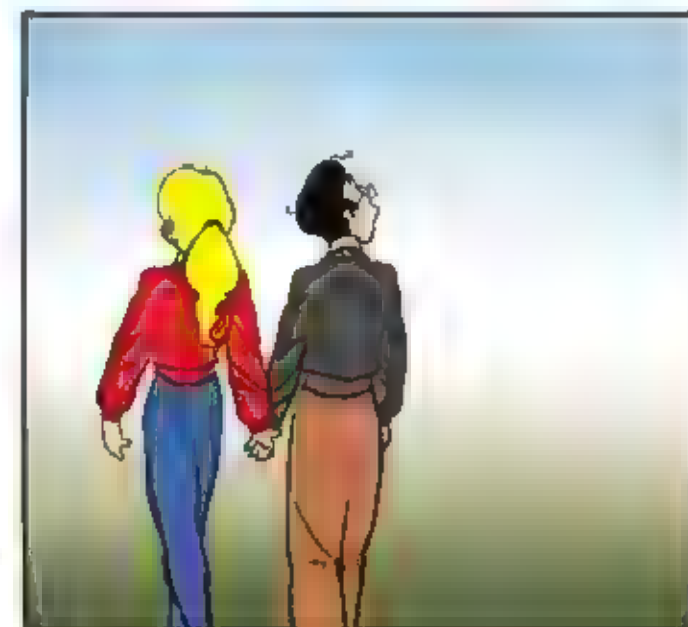
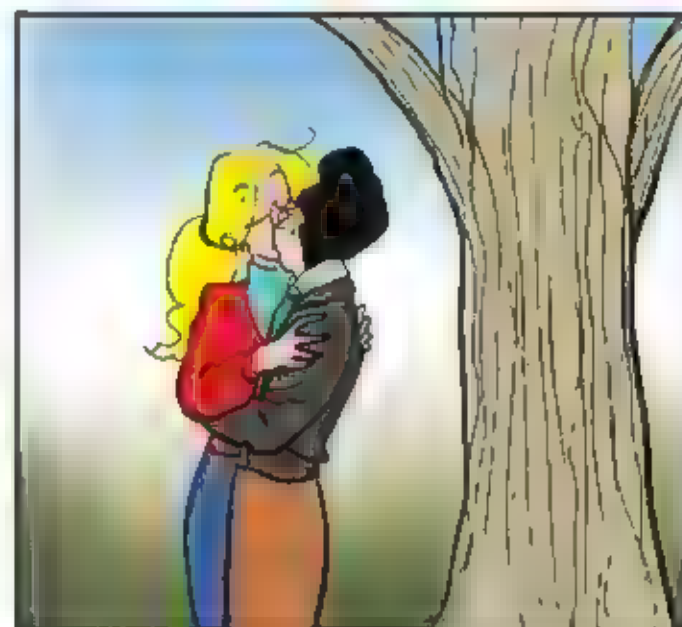
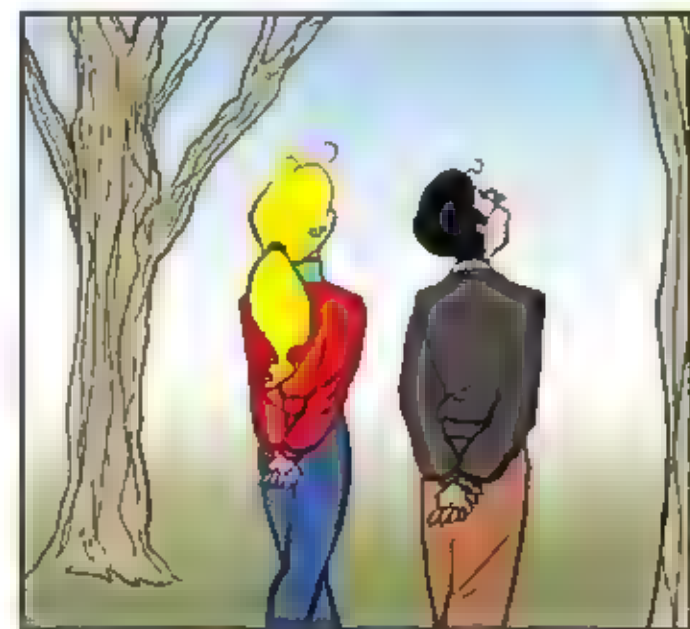
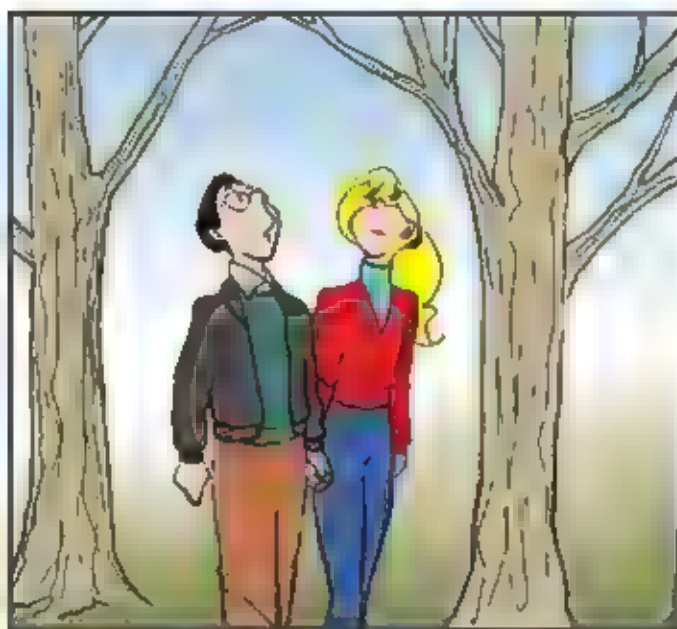


BECAUSE YOU AND YOUR PIANIST  
WERE CAPTURED ON CAMERA AND  
BROADCAST WORLDWIDE IN  
FLAGRANTE DELICTO, AN ALLEGATION  
OF UNFAIR BIAS HAS BEEN DIRECTED  
AT THE FORRESTIER JURY.  
IN FORFEITING THE PRIZE,  
DO YOU HAVE A  
STATEMENT? AND  
DO YOU REGRET  
WHAT HAS  
HAPPENED?

I NEITHER FORFEIT  
NOR ACCEPT THE  
PRIZE. I INSIST ON  
ANOTHER JURIED  
PERFORMANCE.  
...AS FOR HOW  
MUCH I REGRET  
WHAT HAS  
OCCURRED...









**VAN HOESEN  
WINS FORRESTIER**  
BRUSSELS - In an annual ceremony  
that stretches back 56 years, it was  
announced that American cellist  
Amos van Hoesen was the winner  
of the prestigious Prix de Concours  
Forrestier for his performance in  
the final con

**CROWD  
JUBILANT  
AFTER  
EMOTIONAL**

that the weather was  
**PRESIDENT  
EXTENDS WARM  
CONGRATULATIONS**  
THE WHITE HOUSE President

**JUILLIARD  
CONGRATULATES  
ONE OF THEIR OWN**  
NEW YORK - The Juilliard School  
today issued congratulations to  
Amos van Hoesen in recognition  
of his remarkable  
the Juilliard School

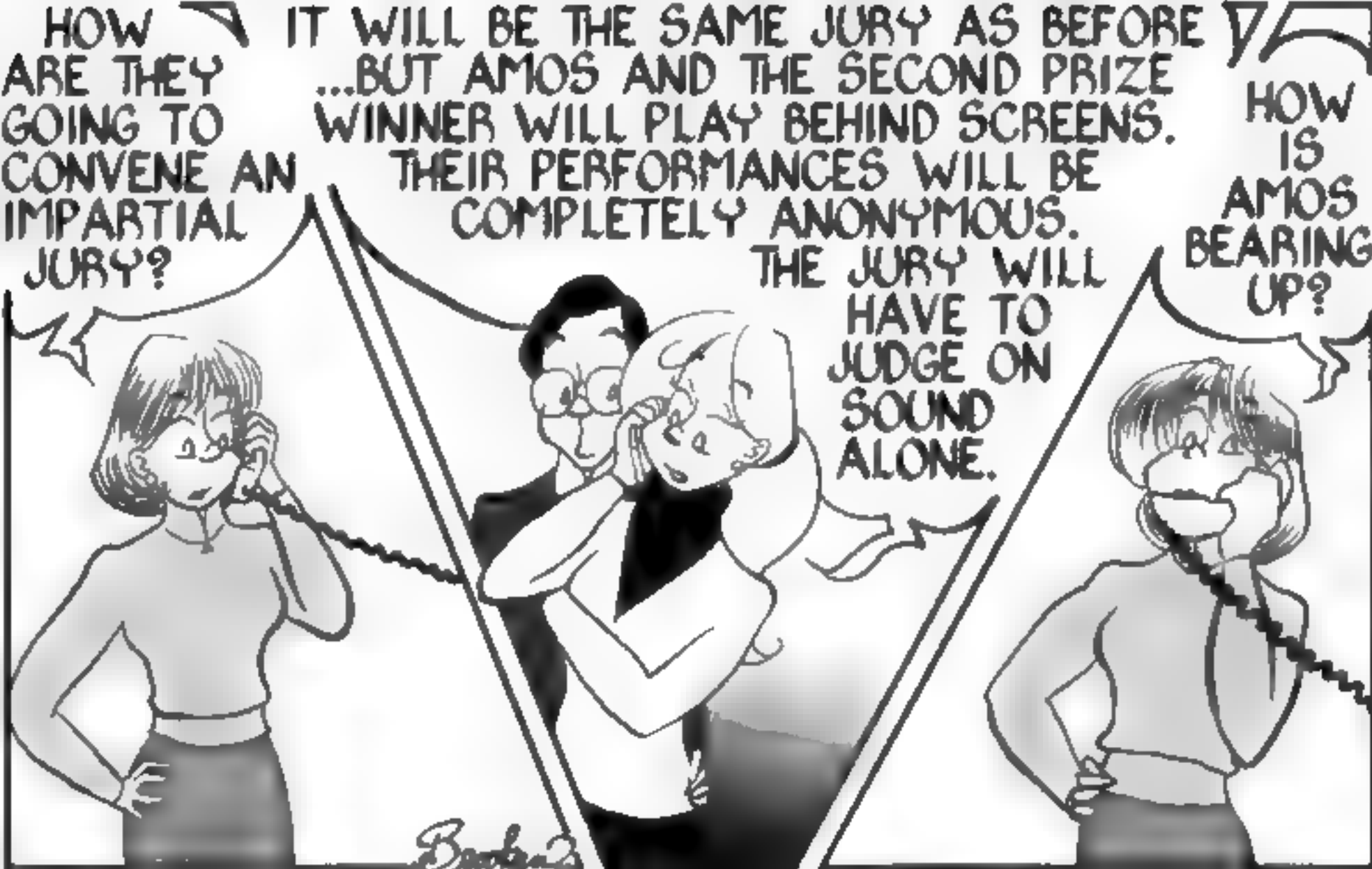
**FORRESTIER  
RUNNER-UP  
PROTESTS  
DECISION**  
BRUSSELS - Amid  
allegations of unfair  
bias among the judges  
of

**PRESIDENT  
EXPRESSES  
DISAPPOINTMENT**  
In a prepared statement,  
"Lack of moral center"  
was blamed for the  
lamentable condition  
of the majority of  
in today's youth  
and," the pr

**JUILLIARD  
DENIES  
KNOWLEDGE  
OF CELLO  
STUDENT**  
NEW YORK The

**VAN HOESEN  
DECLINES  
FORRESTIER PRIZE**  
**DEMANDS REMATCH**  
BRUSSELS - In a startling development  
at the usually staid Concours Forrestier  
International, the winner, cellist Amos  
van Hoesen, rejected the prize over  
allegations that the Forrestier jury was  
unduly influenced by films and  
photographs, distributed widely over  
the internet, of van Hoesen and  
his piano accompanist Edda Burber  
in which the two musicians  
captured actively en

Brooke











IF MR. VAN HOESSEN WERE  
TO RESIGN FROM THIS  
COMPETITION, WE COULD,  
AS AN INTERNATIONAL  
ARTISTS MANAGEMENT,  
BOOK HIM ALL  
OVER THE  
WORLD  
AS THE  
CELLIST  
WHO  
TURNED  
DOWN  
THE  
PRIZE.  
BUT  
SHOULD  
HE LOSE...



I COMPREHEND, GENTLEMEN.  
JUST A MOMENT WHILE I  
PRESENT YOUR  
OFFER.



MY BOY ROCKY SEZ  
HE AIN'T THROWIN' IN  
NO TOWEL FOR  
NOBODY.

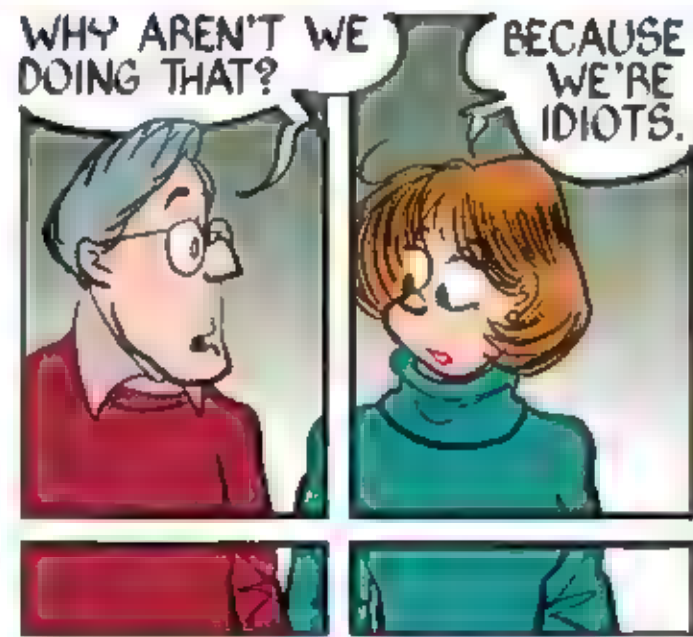
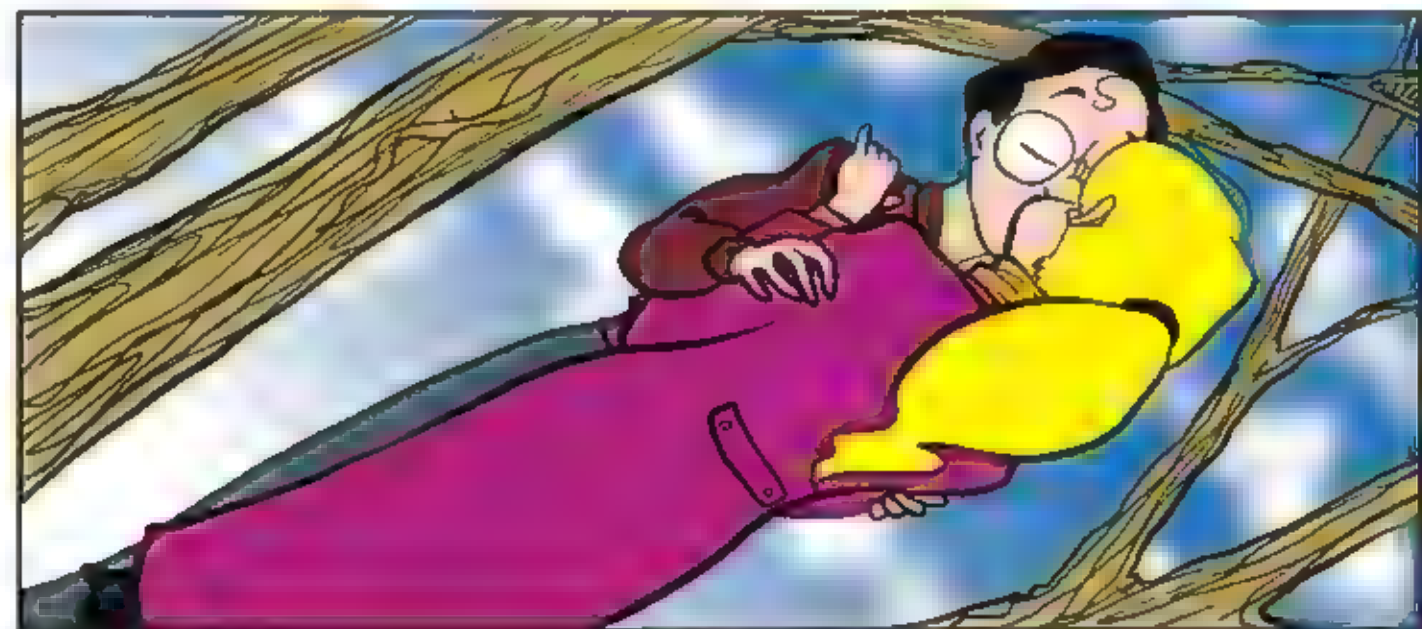
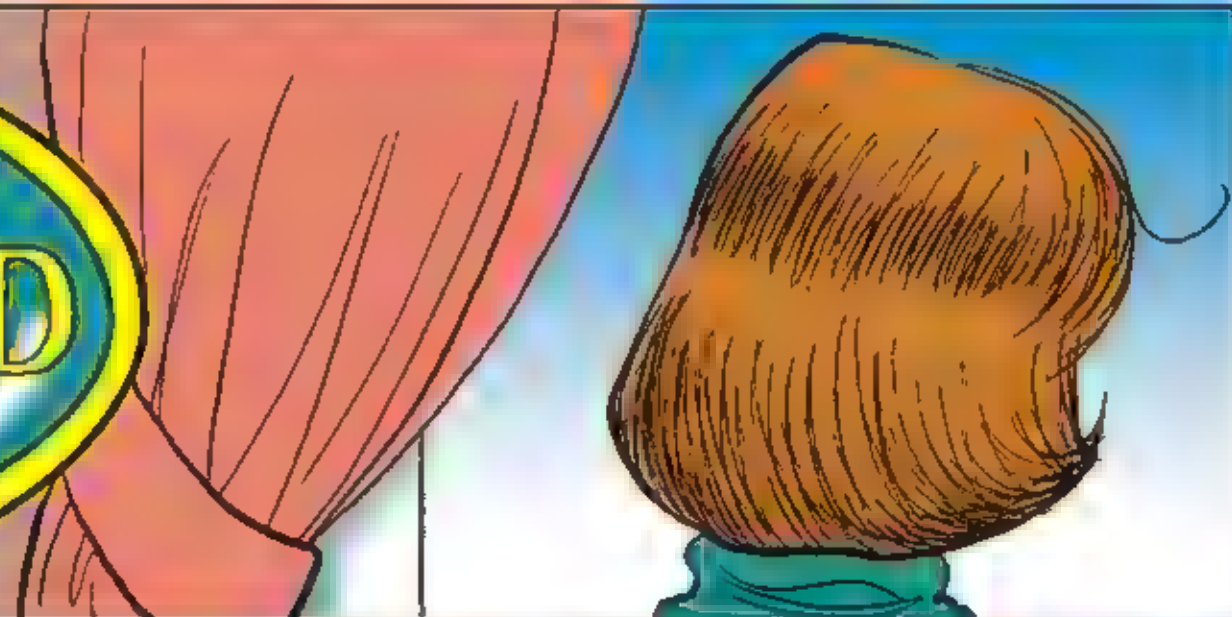


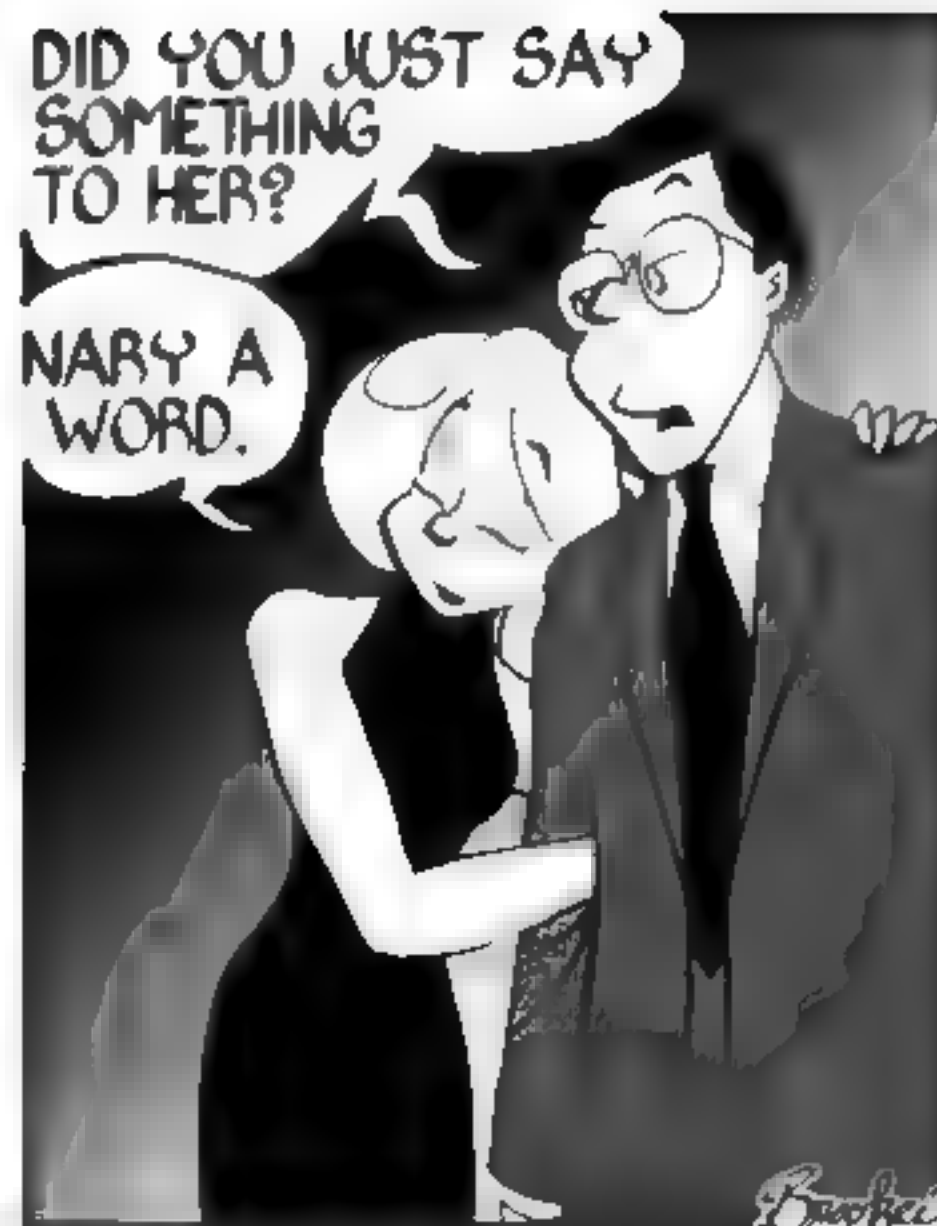
LET ME SEE...  
...THAT WAS  
A TRIPLE  
NEGATIVE...

I'VE  
ALWAYS  
WANTED  
TO SAY  
A LINE  
LIKE  
THAT.



# 9 CHICKWEED LANE







YOU LET HER COMPETE FOR  
THE PRIZE TWICE, YOU  
DIDN'T OBJECT, YOU EVEN  
GAVE HER YOUR CELLO...  
...NOW YOU'VE WISHED  
HER LUCK.



THAT WAS A SYMBOLIC  
GESTURE...SHE DOESN'T  
ACTUALLY SPEAK ENGLISH.  
...ONLY MANDARIN AND  
SOME FRENCH.



EDDA, WHERE DID YOU  
JUST GO?

TO SHARE FURTHER  
OBSERVATIONS WITH  
MS. YUAN.



SUCH  
AS?

MY SPECULATIONS ON  
HER FATHER'S LEGITIMACY,  
HER MOTHER'S SPECIES,  
HER MORALS, HER I.Q.,  
HER CUP SIZE...OF COURSE  
LANGUAGE MAY HAVE POSED  
A BARRIER.



SO...  
YOU LOOKED  
FRIENDLY?

DETENTE  
IS MY  
MIDDLE  
NAME.

BECAUSE THIS IS A POST-FINAL RUNOFF, UNPRECEDENTED IN THE HISTORY OF THE CONCOURS FORRESTIER, WE ASK THAT THE AUDIENCE REFRAIN FROM APPLAUSE UNTIL THE WINNER IS ANNOUNCED.



MOM JUST CALLED TO WISH YOU GOOD LUCK. SHE'S LISTENING TO A STREAMING BROADCAST WITH SETH AND MARK.

I HOPE SHE'S NOT TOO TENSE.



MAN, IF WE ONLY KNEW WHO'S PLAYING.

MAN, IF WE ONLY KNEW WHO'S PLAYING.

MAN, IF HE ONLY WEREN'T GAY.



Brooke



REMEMBER NOT TO SPEAK  
ONSTAGE, OR IN ANY OTHER  
WAY TO BETRAY YOUR  
IDENTITY TO THE JURY.



YOU WILL NOW DRAW  
STRAWS. WHOEVER PICKS  
THE SHORT ONE WILL  
PLAY FIRST.



MADemoiselle, qui prend  
la courte paille sera le  
premier à jouer.

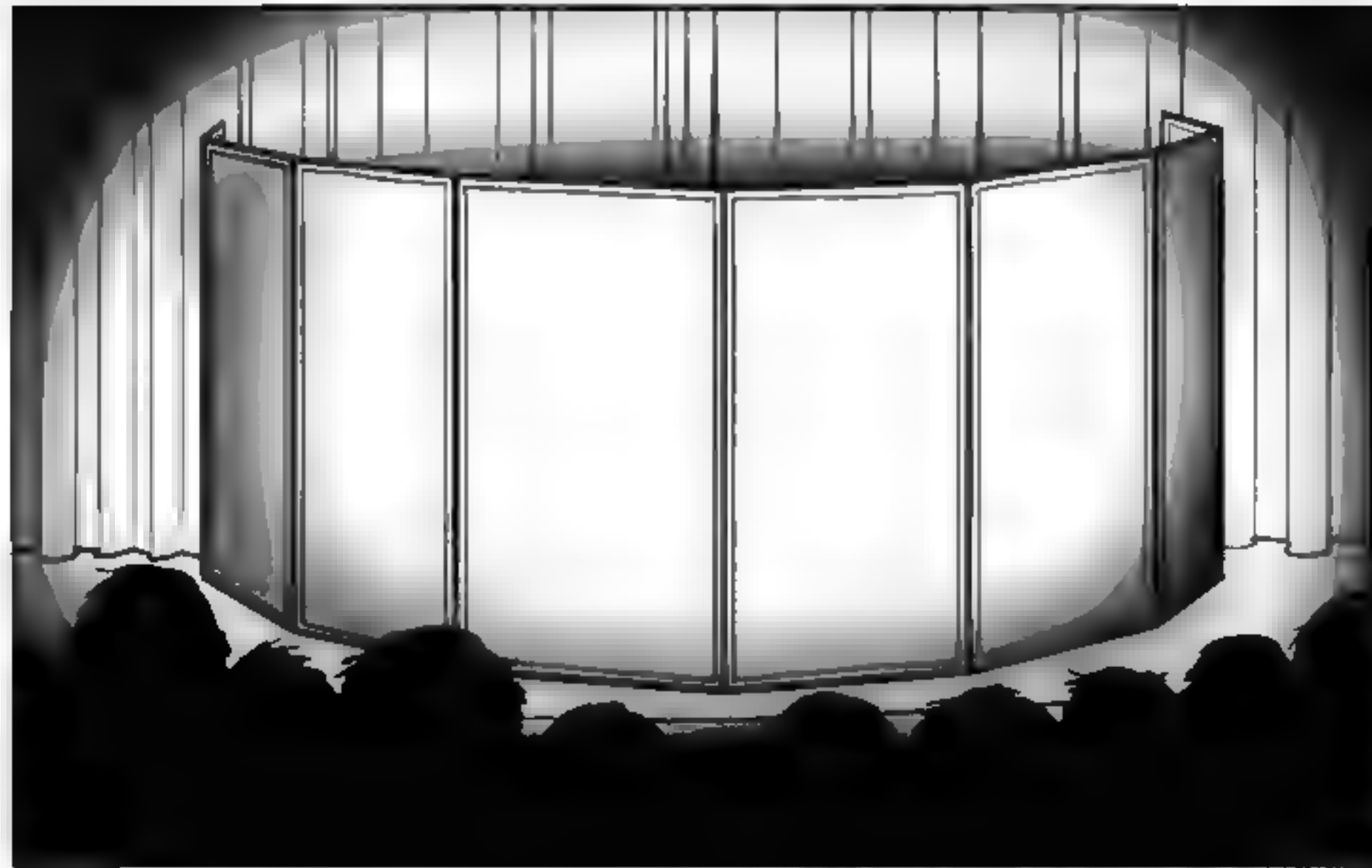
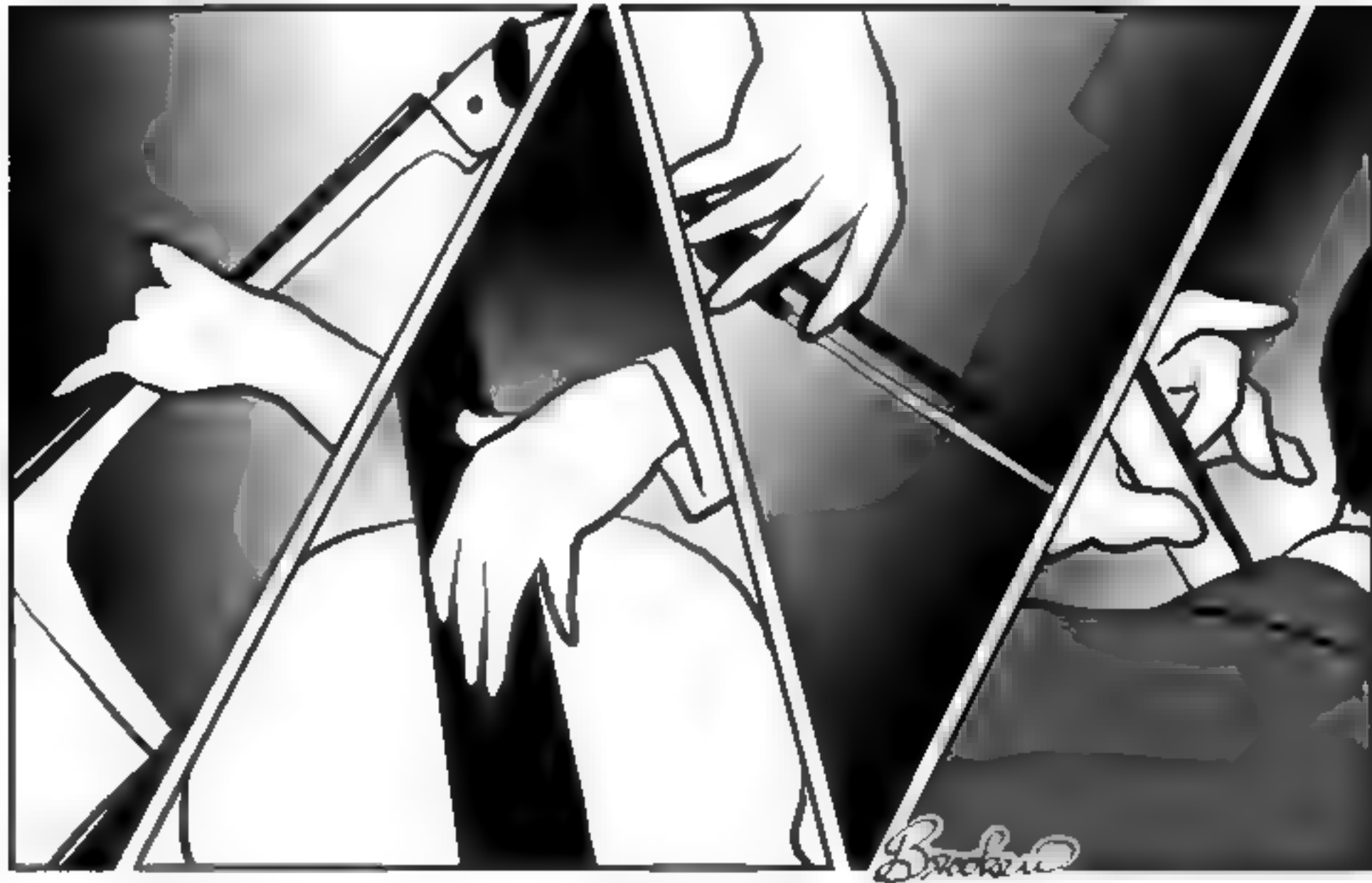


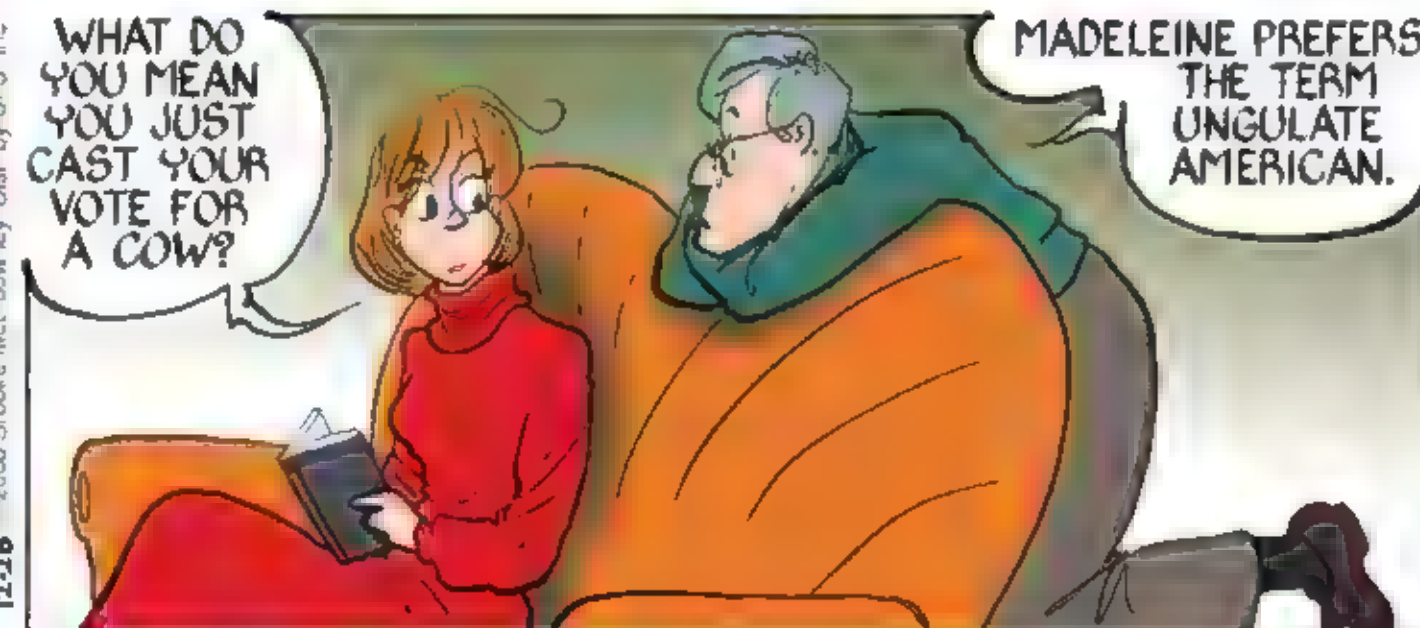
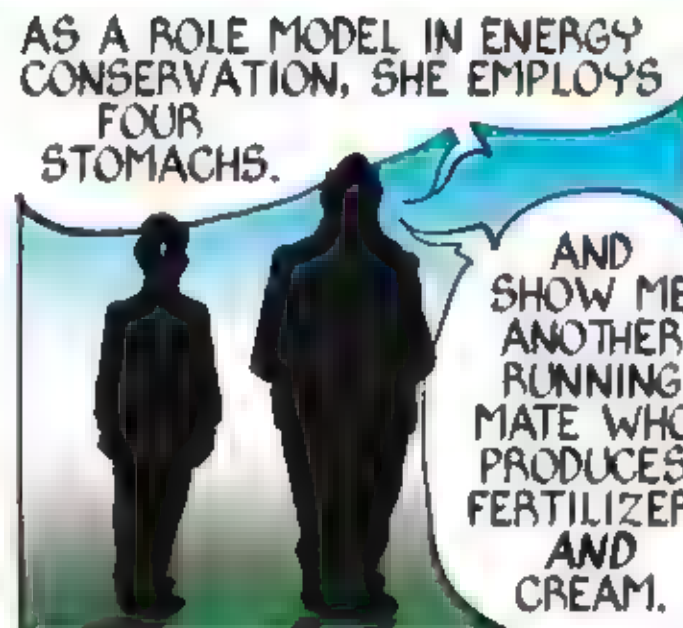
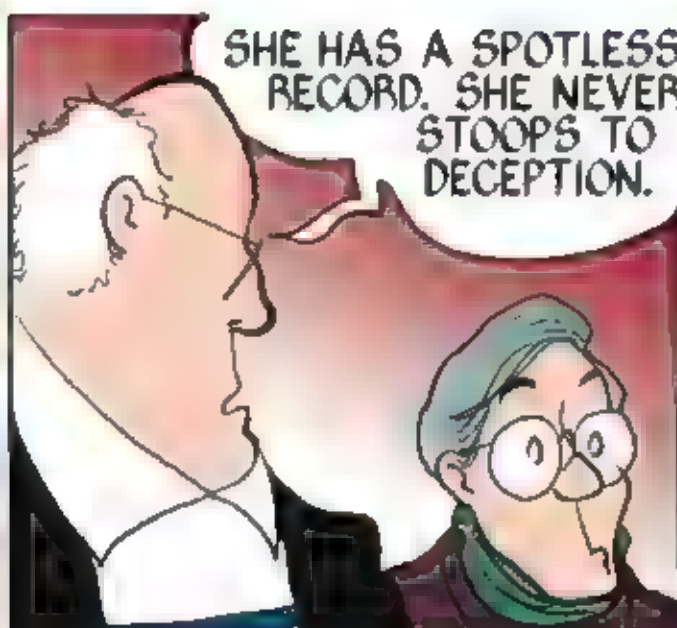
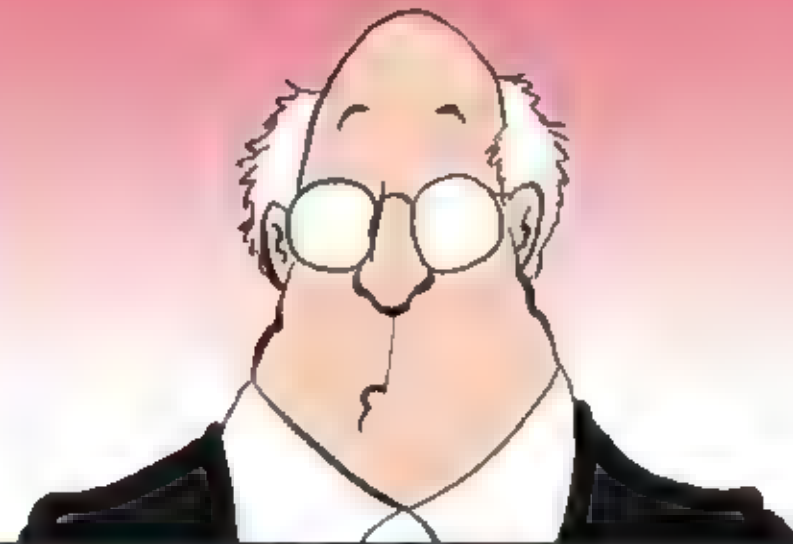
Brooke



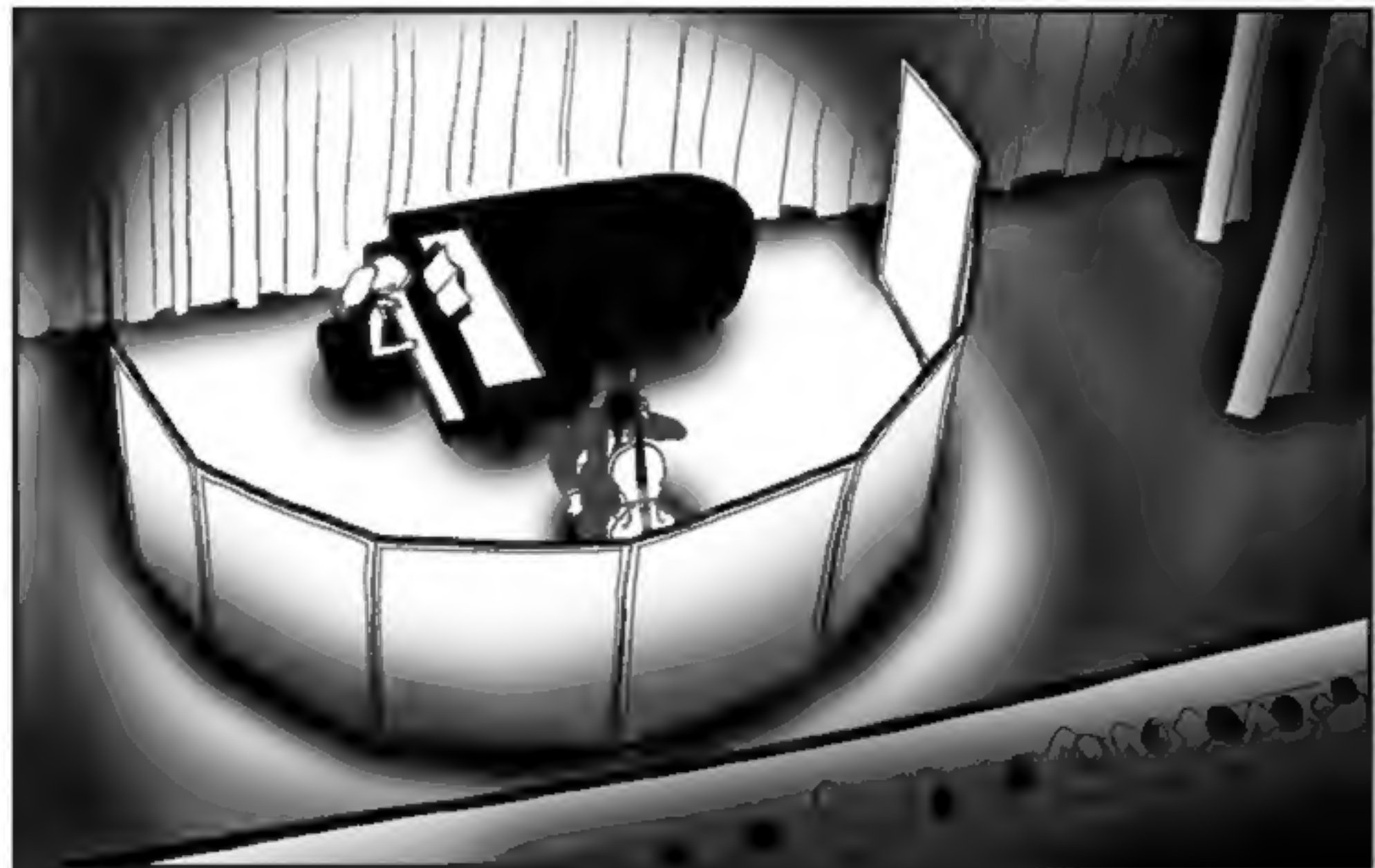
*Brooke*









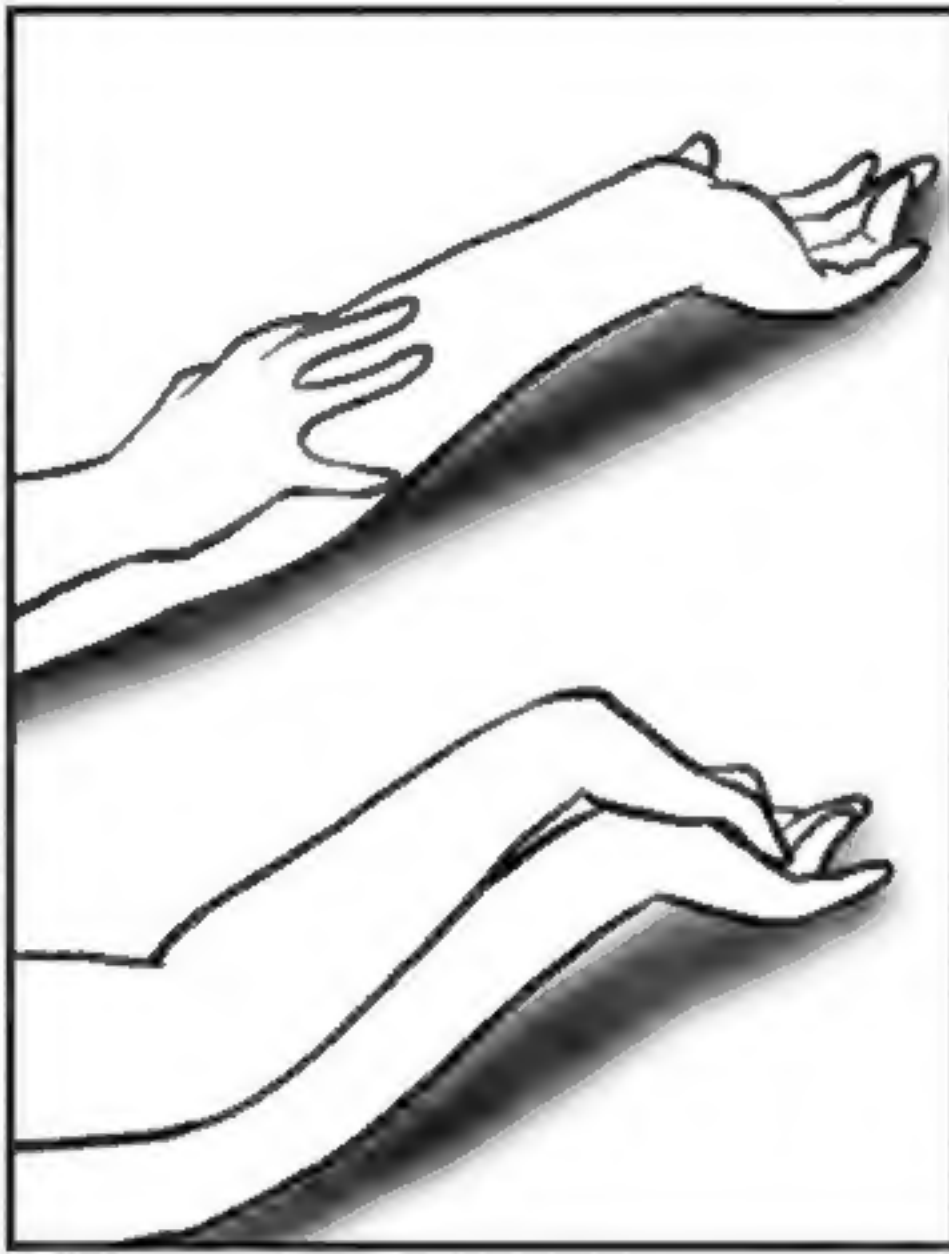








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